



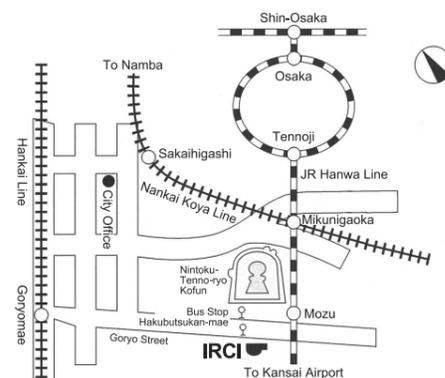
IRCI

National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, Japan
**International Research Centre
 for Intangible Cultural Heritage
 in the Asia-Pacific Region**

2017



National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, Japan
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 in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI)**
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United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Logo of UNESCO



Intangible
Cultural
Heritage

Logo of
UNESCO
Intangible
Cultural
Heritage



International Research Centre
for Intangible Cultural Heritage
in the Asia-Pacific Region

Logo of IRCI

Culture is an important element and heritage that imparts richness to nations. To transmit intangible cultural heritage through generations, connections among people are necessary. The IRCI logo incorporates the Japanese character for "culture" to indicate "people", who are the bearers of culture. This is symbolic of our vision of culture being transmitted from person to person within communities and groups. The background colours represent the Asia-Pacific region, with green signifying mountains, yellow the land, and blue the ocean.

Photo Credits and Captions on the front cover
(left to right, top to bottom):

1. Live performance of Namahage at Oga Shinzan Folklore Museum (Japan) ©Oga city, Akita
2. A scene from Kutiyattam "Sakuntala" (India) ©Gopal Venu
3. The 2015 Tavor Festival in Kimbe (West New Britain Province, Papua New Guinea) ©IPNGS
4. Presentation by a craftswoman of post-conflict area (Tokyo, Japan, 2015)
5. Interview with a local community member during the field survey (Viti Levu, Fiji, 2017)
6. Discussion at the Department of Anthropology, University of Yangon (Yangon, Myanmar, 2017)
7. Research in the community of Dong Ho Woodblock Printing (Bac Ninh Province, Viet Nam, 2015)
8. Discussion among community members at a workshop (Gaua, Vanuatu, 2017)
9. Discussion among villagers on their own ICH during the field survey (Gaua, Vanuatu, 2017)
10. Meetings at National Crafts Council in Sri Lanka (Colombo, Sri Lanka, 2014)

IRCI and UNESCO

Introduction of IRCI

Greetings & Overview of IRCI

The International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI) was established in October 2011 as a Category 2 Centre of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). At the 35th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO held in 2009, the proposal of the "Establishment in Japan of the International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO" was approved. In August of the following year, an agreement was concluded between the Government of Japan and UNESCO, and the Centre officially opened as one of the institutions of the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage (NICH) of Japan. Its office is located in Sakai City, Osaka. IRCI aims to promote the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (the 2003 Convention) and its implementation, as well as to enhance the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) through instigating and coordinating research in the Asia-Pacific region.

ICH such as oral traditions and expressions, performing arts, and rituals is living heritage that is transmitted from generation to generation. It can be said that ICH brings a mainspring of cultural diversity which is a source of unity, innovation and creativity. However, this rich cultural variety is currently endangered due to factors such as globalisation, ageing, disasters and conflicts. The safeguarding of ICH is now undeniably an urgent issue, and cross-border cooperation is crucial.

Based on these concerns, IRCI is working for the safeguarding of ICH in close cooperation with UNESCO and other related institutions such as universities, research institutions, governmental and non-governmental organisations, museums, and communities worldwide as a research hub in the region.

We appreciate your cooperation with the activities of IRCI.



Wataru IWAMOTO
Director-General,
International Research Centre for
Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region



IRCI instigates research for ICH safeguarding in cooperation with various institutions

UNESCO Category 2 Centres

Category 2 Centres are institutions that serve to contribute to the achievement of UNESCO's strategic objectives. There are currently seven UNESCO Category 2 Centres around the world, including Japan, in the field of the safeguarding of ICH. In the Asia-Pacific region, in addition to IRCI, there are Category 2 Centres in China and the Republic of Korea, with which IRCI cooperates and works in tandem. The three centres have different mandates: research for IRCI, information and networking for the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ICHCAP) in the Republic of Korea, and training activities for the International Training Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (CRIHAP) in China.

Operation of IRCI

IRCI activities are implemented with the approval of its Governing Board. The Governing Board is made up of 10 experts and representatives of specialised institutions inside and outside Japan including a UNESCO representative. The Governing Board deliberates and approves all IRCI activities, including long-term and medium-term programmes, work plans, and reports. In addition, when planning research programmes, IRCI's Advisory Body provides their professional perspectives. Furthermore, Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, Former Director-General, UNESCO, was newly appointed as an honorary advisor of IRCI in October 2017 to provide advise and support concerning the operation of IRCI.



UNESCO's Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was founded in 1945 for the purpose of promoting international collaboration in the fields of education, science, culture, and communication. Among its activities is the adoption of international conventions. Regarding culture, there are a total of seven conventions, from the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention), which was adopted at the 17th Session of the General Conference (1972), to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, which was adopted at the 33rd Session of the General Conference (2005). Among them is the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (the 2003 Convention), which was adopted in 2003, about 30 years after the ratification of the World Heritage Convention which aims to preserve and protect tangible cultural heritage.

The 2003 Convention was the outcome of discussions held at UNESCO since the 1950s for the purpose of safeguarding folklore, including oral traditions and folk arts. The Convention has four objectives: (1) to safeguard intangible cultural heritage; (2) to ensure respect for the intangible cultural heritage of the communities, groups and individuals concerned; (3) to raise awareness at the local, national and international levels of the importance of intangible cultural heritage; and (4) to provide for international cooperation and assistance.

Intangible cultural heritage is defined in the text of the Convention as follows: "practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills - as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith - that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognise as part of their cultural heritage." (Article 2(1)). More specifically, they are: (1) oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage; (2) performing arts; (3) social practices, rituals and festive events; (4) knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe; and (5) traditional craftsmanship. States Parties to the Convention are required to draw up inventories of their own intangible cultural heritage (Article 12).

There are two organs through which decisions regarding the Convention are made. One is the General Assembly of States Parties, which meets every other year to decide strategic directions to be taken for promoting the objectives of the Convention. The other is the Intergovernmental Committee, which is made up of member states elected by the General Assembly. The Intergovernmental Committee, composed of 24 states, is held once a year and works for the concrete implementation of the Convention. Its most important roles are to deliberate on inscriptions on two lists of intangible cultural heritage and to decide on good safeguarding practices of intangible cultural heritage.

In Articles 16 and 17, the 2003 Convention requires inscriptions on two lists, namely the "Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity" (Representative List) and the "List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding" (Urgent Safeguarding List). The Representative List of the 2003 Convention takes the standpoint of not placing higher value upon one intangible cultural heritage than the other. The Representative List is merely to identify the diverse intangible cultural heritage of humanity around the world, and aims to bring international awareness. In the implementation of the 2003 Convention, more emphasis is placed on the Urgent Safeguarding List than the Representative List, and in this regard, it differs from the World Heritage Convention. The 2003 Convention focuses on the practitioners' daily lives in relation to ICH, and thus encourages the participation of communities to which the practitioners belong (Article 15).

Many member states that have ratified the 2003 Convention currently suffer from poverty, low rates of literacy, a lack of experts, a lack of interest among young people, urbanisation, conflict, and war. For this reason, assistance in developing legal systems, training of human resources, financial assistance, sustainable education, and so forth are seen as necessary. As particular emphasis is placed on the Urgent Safeguarding List laid forth in Article 17, it follows that an appropriate framework for international assistance and safeguarding measures need to be developed.

IRCI has implemented research projects in close cooperation with UNESCO and other related institutions such as universities, research institutions, governmental and non-governmental organisations, museums, and communities worldwide. One example is a community-led documentation of intangible cultural heritage in danger of disappearing since 2012, conducted through discussions with practitioners of arts and craftsmanship and government officials. With a focus on the process by which elements of intangible cultural heritage have become in danger of disappearing, IRCI has used a variety of methodologies to make audiovisual documentation. As a research institution, IRCI aims to share the outcomes of such research with the communities and contribute to safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. This is because, as stated above, the 2003 Convention places strong emphasis on communities, in other words, people who maintain and transmit intangible cultural heritage.

What is Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)?

ICH is living cultural heritage. Although it transforms over time, it is transmitted from generation to generation and gives us cultural identity and richness. In the text of the 2003 Convention, the following examples of ICH are provided:

Oral Traditions and Expressions



Hudhud chants of the Ifugao (Philippines)
© 2008, by J. Uñalivia/NCCA-ICH,
with the permission of UNESCO



Tradition of Vedic chanting (India)
© Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, India,
with the permission of UNESCO

Performing Arts



Royal ballet of Cambodia (Cambodia)
© International Research Centre for Intangible
Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region
(IRCI), 2013



Ca tru singing (Viet Nam)
© 2006, Vietnamese Institute for Musicology,
Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism
of Vietnam, with the permission of UNESCO

Social Practices, Rituals and Festive Events



Mask dance of the drums from Drametse (Bhutan)
© 2007, by Institute of Language and Cultural
Studies – Sentsokha Bhutan,
with the permission of UNESCO



Royal ancestral ritual in the Jongmyo shrine
and its music (Republic of Korea)
© National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage,
2008, with the permission of UNESCO

Knowledge and Practices Concerning Nature and the Universe



Acupuncture and moxibustion
of traditional Chinese medicine (China)
© Institute of Acupuncture and Moxibustion,
2009, with the permission of UNESCO



Tugging rituals and games (Cambodia,
Philippines, Republic of Korea, Viet Nam)
© Vietnam Institute of Culture and Arts Studies,
2013, with the permission of UNESCO

Traditional Craftsmanship



Indonesian Batik (Indonesia)
© Batik Museum Institute, Pekalongan, 2008,
with the permission of UNESCO



Ojiya-chijimi, Echigo-jofu (Japan)
© 1998, by Association for the Conservation
of Techniques for Echigo-jofu, Ojiya-Chijimi,
with the permission of UNESCO

Activities of IRCI

Strategies and Projects for FY 2017

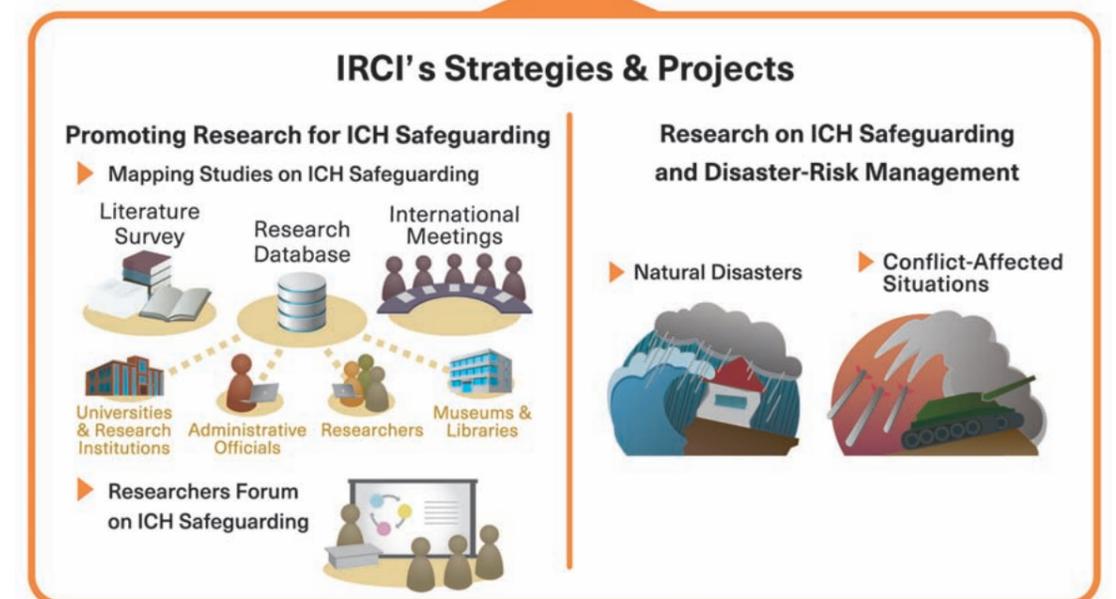
With the purpose of safeguarding ICH in the Asia-Pacific region, IRCI has carried out a range of activities utilising networks both within and outside Japan. In FY 2017, IRCI is pursuing the following four projects under two activity focuses as shown below:

Promoting Research for ICH Safeguarding

1. Mapping Studies on the Safeguarding of ICH (FY 2013 – FY 2019)
2. IRCI Researchers Forum on ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region (FY 2017)

Research on ICH Safeguarding and Disaster Risk Management

1. Preliminary Research on ICH Safeguarding and the Disaster-Risk Management in the Asia-Pacific Region (FY 2016 – FY 2017)
2. A Study of Emergency Protection of ICH in Conflict-Affected Countries in Asia (FY 2017 – FY 2020)



Main Projects

Projects in FY 2017

Promoting Research for ICH Safeguarding

1. Mapping Studies on the Safeguarding of ICH (FY 2013 – FY 2019)

Since there is currently a lack of research and expert information on the safeguarding of ICH in the Asia-Pacific region, it is necessary to perceive the underlying challenges of safeguarding and to pursue concrete research aimed at resolving those issues. IRCI has been implementing projects to “conduct a survey on experts and research activities”, to “analyse safeguarding measures on a per-topic basis” and to “develop a public database” since FY 2013. The importance of these projects has been shared with UNESCO and UNESCO recommends continuous implementation of such projects.

The goal of the Mapping Studies is to instigate research for ICH safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific region by analysing current trends and challenges. Therefore, it is essential to first understand the overall picture of the safeguarding of ICH, and then to promote collaboration and knowledge sharing among each individual expert. Also, the information must be systematically organised and visualised.

In order to achieve the goal, IRCI is focusing on (1) organising international conferences (2) collecting information through literature survey, and (3) constructing and optimising a database. In this way, IRCI is not simply a research institute for ICH, but also a place to link international experts together with UNESCO and other organisations.

As part of this project, IRCI has collected information from existing literature, research institutes, and researchers from 24 out of 47 countries in the Asia-Pacific region and has released this information through the database. International conferences based on the results of the surveys have been also held regularly in countries all over the Asia-Pacific region.



Organising International Conferences

International Symposium “Glocal Perspectives on Intangible Cultural Heritage: Local Communities, Researchers, States and UNESCO”(FY 2017)

Since the effectuation of the “Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage” in 2006, the spirit and concept embedded in the Convention have been accepted globally as the basic principles for ICH safeguarding. In the process of implementing the Convention, various stakeholders, for example, UNESCO, researchers, states, and communities have been involved and their interactions have been diverse not only at the global level, but also at the local and national levels.

To instigate the research on ICH safeguarding through examination and analysis of interactions from not only a global perspective, but also a local perspective, that is, from a glocal one, IRCI and the Center for Glocal Studies of Seijo University co-organised the International Symposium “Glocal Perspectives on Intangible Cultural Heritage: Local Communities, Researchers, States and UNESCO” from 7 to 9 July 2017. A total of 24 experts and community members, including Mr. Tim Curtis, Chief of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section, UNESCO, were actively involved in the discussions. Furthermore, how to strengthen the networking among researchers/experts of ICH has been discussed.

The proceedings and the report of this symposium will be published in order to share the discussions and achievements with those who are engaged in ICH safeguarding research.



Discussion among experts of ICH at the Symposium (Tokyo, Japan, July, 2017)

Collecting Information through Literature Survey

The literature survey aims to collect basic information for the research on ICH and to identify important research issues by conducting a broad and systematic collection and analysis of information on existing literatures, research institutions, and researchers in the Asia-Pacific region. It is carried out, principally in collaboration with research institutions/researchers based on the guidelines developed by IRCI. 24 countries in the Asia-Pacific region have been already researched and mapped (as of September 2017).

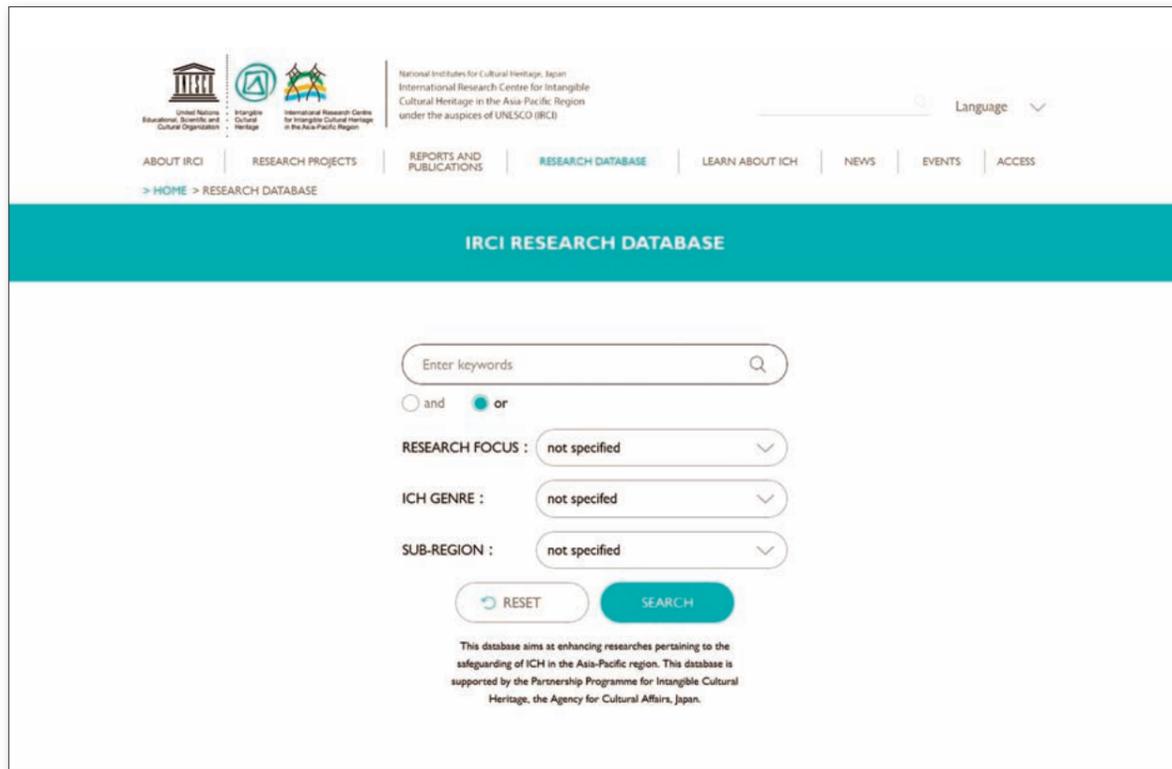
Investigated Countries:

Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Palau, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam (24 countries)



Constructing and Optimising a Database

From FY 2014, IRCI has released a searchable database of information on relevant literature, experts, administrative officials, and institutions engaged in the safeguarding of ICH in the Asia-Pacific region. The database currently stores approximately 2,000 entries in 24 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, which contribute to building an platform that can serve as the foundation for facilitating research activities and exchanging information (as of September 2017). We will continue to add and disseminate the useful information obtained in the course of literature survey by utilising the database.



2. IRCI Researchers Forum on ICH Safeguarding (FY 2017)

In research related to the safeguarding of ICH in the Asia-Pacific region, productive and practical discussions have not yet been well advanced due to limited interactions and communication among researchers. Aiming to create a place for academic discussions on research for ICH safeguarding, and to strengthen a network of researchers and the foundation for ICH safeguarding research, IRCI organised an international symposium at the National Museum of Ethnology (Minpaku) from 29 November to 1 December 2017 in cooperation with Minpaku and the Agency for Cultural Affairs.

IRCI invited a professor from the University of Ljubljana, who is Vice President of International Council for Traditional Music as the keynote speaker in addition to 12 researchers from 8 different countries as presenters, for the symposium entitled, "Negotiating Intangible Cultural Heritage" which was aimed at discussing the ways in which multiple levels of negotiation between various actors/stakeholders affect the safeguarding of ICH by analysing their case studies.

To disseminate the outcome of the discussion and to instigate ICH safeguarding, a collection of essays based on the symposium is expected to be published in 2019.



Leaflet of the symposium

Research on ICH Safeguarding and Disaster Risk Management

IRCI conducts research on the current status and cases of ICH in the Asia-Pacific region that are endangered by disasters or conflicts, as well as the role of ICH for disaster preparedness and in post-disaster or in the conflict-affected situations.

1. Preliminary Research on ICH Safeguarding and Disaster-Risk Management in the Asia-Pacific Region (FY 2016 – FY 2017)

Many Asia-Pacific countries are vulnerable to various natural hazards, and the impact of these hazards on ICH has been of great concern. There has been a growing international awareness regarding the disaster risk management of cultural heritage. For example, the "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030" adopted at the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction calls for the protection of cultural heritage, and UNESCO's Medium-term Strategy (2014-2021), emphasises the urgent need to respond to post-conflict and post-disaster situations. However, such efforts are centered on the protection and rescue of tangible cultural heritage, while effective measures for ICH safeguarding have yet to be developed.

In this context, this two-year project aims to gain basic information and to document case studies related to ICH in association with natural disasters, in cooperation with the Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, and researchers and organisations in five countries (Fiji, Myanmar, Philippines, Vanuatu, and Viet Nam). While assessing the actual impact of natural hazards on ICH, the project also highlights the roles of indigenous knowledge that are part of ICH for disaster risk reduction.

The outcomes of the two years' activities will be published as a report of the overall project. In the following FY 2018, an international workshop will be implemented to discuss practical measures to safeguard ICH from natural hazards as well as to discuss the possibilities of incorporating ICH into strategies for disaster risk reduction.



Villagers discussing on their own ICH at a workshop (Gaua, Vanuatu, July 2017)

2. Study of Emergency Protection of ICH in Conflict-Affected Countries in Asia (FY 2017 – FY 2019)

As exemplified by the Bamiyan Buddha Statues or Palmyra, many tangible cultural heritage structures have been damaged or destroyed in armed conflicts. Because ICH is 'living' cultural heritage transmitted by people, various factors such as the transmitters' death, forced migration, or displacement resulting from armed conflict or long-term political instabilities, can cause severe situations including the decline or disappearance of ICH elements such as craftsmanship, performing arts, and festivals and rituals, which are inherited for generations. However, little research or discussion on the safeguarding of such 'intangible' cultural heritage in conflict-affected countries or regions exists.

More attention has been paid to the problem internationally, and UNESCO has emphasised the responses to post-conflict and post-disaster situations in its Medium-term Strategy. In response to such situations, and based on the experiences in its previous research on ICH in post-conflict situations in Timor-Leste and in the North and North-East provinces of Sri Lanka, in 2017, IRCI started a 3-year research project on the protection of ICH that is on the verge of extinction in the conflict-affected countries in the Asia region such as Afghanistan.

In this research project, IRCI has conducted a survey on the current situation of ICH in the target countries in cooperation with experts and related institutions in these countries. With the cooperation of these experts, IRCI has been able to recognise what is needed for ICH protection and has started practical research on emergency protection measures.

Achievements of Past Projects

Research for Safeguarding Endangered ICH

From FY 2012 to FY 2016, IRCI conducted projects with a focus on ICH in danger of disappearing.

1. Research for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage on the Verge of Extinction: Vietnamese ICH Element Dong Ho Woodblock Printing (FY 2013 – FY 2015)

In the village of Dong Ho in Bac Ninh Province in the north of Viet Nam, woodblock prints have traditionally been created as talismans to decorate the Lunar New Year festivals. However, a decline in the number of woodblock craftsmen as well as rapid urbanisation and industrialisation has brought about changes to the lifestyles of the people of the village, and the transmission of Dong Ho woodblock printing techniques is now in danger. Given these circumstances, the Government of Viet Nam has issued an urgent request to IRCI, and as a result a joint research project for the safeguarding of the woodblock techniques was carried out from FY 2013 to FY 2015. In the project, basic surveys and analysis of critical factors were conducted in cooperation with the Vietnam National Institute of Culture and Arts Studies (VICAS) and visits to crafts studios in Kanazawa city, Japan, created discussion on good practices of ICH safeguarding measures in Japan. In addition, final workshops were organised in Dong Ho village and in Hanoi. At these workshops, discussions that summarised the outcomes of the project were held among practitioners, researchers, and administrative officials. Japanese experts were also invited to present proposals for transmitting woodblock printing based on examples in Japan of safeguarding and reviving ICH. The proceedings were put together as the result of the project in its final year and published as a report. The most significant accomplishment of this project is that a community museum for practitioner-led sustainable safeguarding is now planned with its establishment underway in Dong Ho village.



A practitioner of Dong Ho Woodblock Printing in the community (Bac Ninh Province, Viet Nam, January 2015)

2. Research for Endangered Traditional Handicrafts in Post-Conflict States (Sri Lanka) (FY 2013 – FY 2015)

In the Northern and Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka, which have been the most affected by the civil war until 2009, the alleviation of poverty and the establishment of sustainable livelihoods are particularly urgent matters. As part of those efforts, IRCI decided to focus on the importance of reviving ICH such as traditional textiles and women's handicrafts that have been passed down to surviving women as a potential way to reconstruct their livelihoods, thus contributing to sustainable peace building. The project was implemented in cooperation with the Government of Sri Lanka with the purpose of reviving these handicrafts. Through the project from FY 2013 to FY 2015, workshops and field surveys were conducted in 10 areas and IRCI held numerous dialogues with representatives of the craftswomen and the government officials of Sri Lanka. Also, recommendations for craft revitalisation were made. Furthermore, over a two-year period, IRCI invited practitioners, government officials, and researchers to Japan for intensive discussion sessions on the recommendations. IRCI played a role in providing those stakeholders with common understanding and recognition about further challenges and the key issues for reviving these handicrafts. Sustainable transmission of traditional culture by local people plays a major role in the process of building stability and peace for all countries that have experienced conflict and war. IRCI hopes to use its case study of this project and its practical research on restoration and revitalisation in other countries.



Meeting on further cooperation and sharing the final report with Hon. Minister Douglas Devananda, Ministry of Traditional Industries and Small Enterprise Development (Colombo, Sri Lanka, September 2014)

3. Documentation of ICH as a Tool for Community-led Safeguarding Activities (FY 2012 – FY 2014)

Audio-visual documentation of ICH is crucial for restoring and reviving ICH that is in danger of disappearing. To ensure the continued transmission of ICH, it is extremely important for the practitioners involved to be aware of and identify endangered elements of ICH, and then to lead the effort to document them, and plan their documentation with a view to utilising that record. Based on this concept, IRCI implemented the project from FY 2012 to FY 2014. This project was created to propose concrete and detailed guidelines that included how to document ICH. In the next step, to verify that the guidelines are of practical use to communities, practitioners of ICH from six communities in five countries were enlisted to look at elements of their communities' ICH currently endangered. They were asked to discuss within the community the best plans for having the practitioners of the community lead efforts to film the parts that were endangered as well as the elements of ICH itself, and how to utilise the recorded footage. Eventually, IRCI held discussions again with practitioners of ICH and researchers concerning plans to utilise documentary footage, and the outcomes of those discussions were compiled in 2016 as a case study.



Presentation by a local officer of Timor-Leste in charge of culture at a workshop (Tokyo, Japan, March 2015)

4. Study of Legal Systems related to Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Greater Mekong Region (FY 2013 – FY 2016)

To safeguard ICH, each country must establish legal systems to suit its own particular circumstances because if such systems do not exist and elements of ICH have yet to be identified, it is difficult to implement measures that lead to sustainable transmission. Some countries are currently trying to draft relevant laws, but because many of them have no experience in creating laws concerning ICH, there is a great need for advice and support from foreign experts with extensive experience. With the cooperation of the Faculty of Law of Kyushu University, IRCI began a project to study the legal systems of the countries in the Greater Mekong region. The aim of the project is to analyse the issues involved in the process of drafting legislation through field research and international workshops, and ultimately to create a "tool-kit" for planning legal mechanisms. In Japan, as a result of the Law for the Protection of Cultural Properties, policies to preserve these elements of ICH were implemented. In addition, local government authorities have in place ordinances to safeguard cultural heritage. Since these experiences in Japan are useful for countries now seeking to draft laws, the IRCI international workshop in 2015 aimed to learn ordinances to safeguard ICH and activities for the transmission of ICH by practitioners in Japan. In 2016, IRCI organised the final workshop in cooperation with Vietnam National Institute of Culture and Arts Studies (VICAS) in Viet Nam, where the outcomes of the whole project were produced.



Discussion among experts at the final workshop (Hanoi, Viet Nam, December 2016)

5. Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage for the Promotion of Cultural Identity and Community Resilience in Timor-Leste (FY 2013)

Timor-Leste is a new country, which became independent in 2002, and its national framework for safeguarding its cultural heritage and its museum infrastructures are still in the development stage. IRCI, in response to an urgent request from the Government of Timor-Leste and the UNESCO Office in Jakarta, from 22 to 26 October 2013, conducted a study tour for governmental officers of Timor-Leste concerning cultural administration.

The 9 participants from Timor-Leste visited museums and institutes involved in the good practices of ICH safeguarding, promotion, and transmission by national and local communities in Japan (for example, The Tokyo National Museum; The National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo; The National Theatre; The Namahage Museum, and The Oga Shinzan Folklore Museum, Yuki City and Mashiko City) and held a discussion session with the administrative officers and transmitters engaged in ICH safeguarding. In the final day of the tour, they thoroughly discussed safeguarding measures to resolve the issues of Timor-Leste.

The final report of the tour and their discussions was published in March 2014 and the report is available on IRCI's website.



Discussion on the challenges of transmitting ICH among the participants (Tokyo, Japan, October 2013)

Other projects

Cooperative projects with Sakai City

IRCI disseminates information and a clear image of ICH widely to people in Japan, and provides them with various opportunities to learn about ICH in cooperation with Sakai City, Osaka. For instance, Sakai City and the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage have been co-hosting the annual symposium on cultural heritage since FY 2015. At this event, IRCI information panels are displayed in the lobby of the venue. In 2017, the Director-General of IRCI was invited as a panelist to discuss the importance of the safeguarding and transmission of ICH, as well as the role museums and research institution can play. Also, the "2016 International Symposium on ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region: Transmitting Art and Spirit of ICH" hosted by Sakai City and IRCI was held in November 2016. This public event included a panel discussion and a performance of the Japanese traditional puppet theatre, Bunraku, which attracted more than 200 attendees.

Furthermore, Sakai City continually offers cooperation with IRCI in displaying panels for the introduction of IRCI's activities at Sakai City Museum.



Displaying panels at the Symposium (Tokyo National Museum, Japan, June 2017)



International Symposium on ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region: Transmitting Art and Spirit of ICH (Osaka, Japan, November 2016)

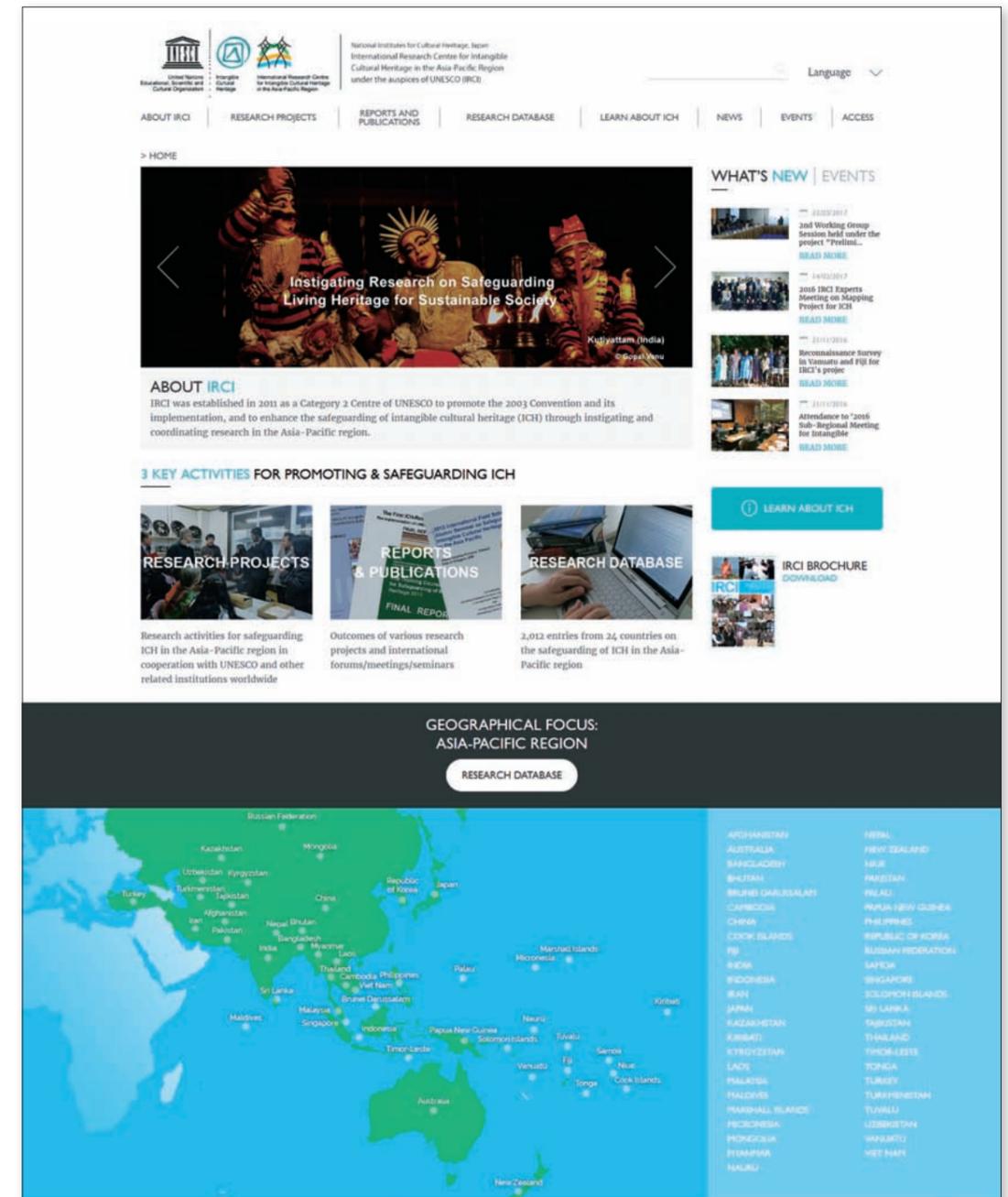
Annex

Website Information (<http://www.irci.jp>)

The IRCI Website is currently being renewed and redesigned and will be released in 2018 with the aim of posting new information on IRCI's activities and on ICH by presenting the outcomes of our research projects widely and clearly. The new site will also be smartphone and tablet device friendly in design and content.

We will continuously improve the IRCI Website to ensure its accessibility and usability.

We appreciate your interest in our activities and in the use of our Website.



International Meetings and Workshops

Project/Theme	Year	Month	International Meeting / Workshop	Co-Organiser	Cooperating institutions / experts / researchers
Mapping Studies on the Safeguarding of ICH	2017	7	International Symposium "Glocal Perspectives on Intangible Cultural Heritage: Local Communities, Researchers, States and UNESCO"	Center for Glocal Studies(CGS), Seijo University, Japan Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan	Mr. Tomiyuki Uesugi (Director/Professor, Center for Glocal Studies(CGS), Seijo University)
	2016	11	IRCI Experts Meeting on Mapping Project for ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region	Aigine Cultural Research Center, Kyrgyzstan	
	2015	12	IRCI Experts Meeting on Mapping Project for ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Countries	Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia	
	2015	1	International Experts Meeting of the Project "Mapping Research on the Safeguarding of ICH in the Asia-Pacific Region"	UNESCO Bangkok Office, Thailand	
	2014	2	Preliminary Meeting of the Project "Exploring Research for the Safeguarding of ICH in the Asia-Pacific Region"		
Researchers Forum on ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region	2017	11	International Symposium "Negotiating Intangible Cultural Heritage"	National Museum of Ethnology, Japan Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan	Mr. Yoshitaka Terada (Professor, Center for Cultural Resource Studies, National Museum of Ethnology) Mr. Shota Fukuoka (Associate Professor, Department of Advanced Human Sciences, National Museum of Ethnology) Mr. Taku Iida (Associate Professor, Center for Cultural Resource Studies, National Museum of Ethnology)
Preliminary Research on ICH Safeguarding and the Disaster-Risk Management in the Asia-Pacific Region	2017	1	International Working Group Session		Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Japan
Study of Legal Systems Related to ICH in the Greater Mekong Region	2016	12	IRCI Final Workshop on the Study of Legal Systems Related to ICH in the Greater Mekong Region		Mr. Toshiyuki Kono (Professor, Faculty of Law, Kyushu University, Japan) Ms. Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy (Associate Director, Extent Heritage Pty Limited, Australia) Vietnam National Institute of Culture and Arts Studies (VICAS)
	2015	12	IRCI Second Workshop on the Study of Legal Systems Related to ICH in the Greater Mekong Region		Mr. Toshiyuki Kono (Professor, Faculty of Law, Kyushu University, Japan) Ms. Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy (Associate Director, Extent Heritage Pty Limited, Australia) Ms. Katie O'Rourke (Director, Katie O'Rourke Consulting, Australia) Mr. Steven Van Uytsel (Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, Kyushu University, Japan) Toyama Prefecture, Toyama City, Takaoka City, Kyoto City, Japan NOUSAKU Corporation, Japan Musashigawa Studio, Japan
	2014	12	IRCI First Workshop on the Study of Legal Systems Related to ICH in Southeast Asia	Faculty of Law, Kyushu University, Japan	Mr. Toshiyuki Kono (Professor, Faculty of Law, Kyushu University, Japan) Mr. Steven Van Uytsel (Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, Kyushu University, Japan)
Research for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage on the Verge of Extinction: Vietnamese ICH Element Dong Ho Woodblock Printing	2015	1	Workshop on the Roles of the Community Centre in ICH Revitalization: A Case Study of Dong Ho Woodblock Printing	Vietnam National Institute of Culture and Arts Studies (VICAS)	Government of Viet Nam Bac Ninh Province, Viet Nam Mr. Seishi Namiki (Professor, Kyoto Institute of Technology, Japan)
Research for Endangered Traditional Handicrafts in Post-Conflict States (Sri Lanka)	2015	12	Discussion Meeting on Endangered Traditional Handicrafts in Sri Lanka		UNESCO New Delhi Office, India National Craft Council (NCC), Sri Lanka Ms. Himali Jinadasa (Director-General, Sri Lanka Export Development Board (SLEDB)) Mr. Seiki Ishii (Product Designer, SEIKI DESIGN STUDIO, Japan)
Documentation of ICH as a Tool for Community-led Safeguarding Activities	2015	3	Intensive Working Session on ICH Documentation as a Tool for Community-led Safeguarding Activities		
	2014	2	Workshop for Community's Young Film Makers for ICH Audio-Visual Documentation		
	2013	2	Workshop on ICH Documentation as a Tool for Community Safeguarding Activities		
	2012	3	Intensive Researchers Meeting on Communities and the 2003 Convention		
Safeguarding the ICH for the Promotion of Cultural Identity and Community Resilience in Timor-Leste	2013	10	Study Tour for ICH Experts of Timor-Leste	UNESCO Jakarta Office, Indonesia	Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, Japan (Tokyo National Museum, Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties) Oga City, Akita, Yuki City, Ibaraki, Japan
Research on the 2003 Convention	2013	1	2013 IRCI Meeting on ICH — Evaluating the Inscription Criteria for the Two Lists of UNESCO's ICH Convention		Maison des Cultures du Monde (MCM), France
	2012	6	The First ICH-Research Forum: The Implementation of UNESCO's 2003 Convention	Maison des Cultures du Monde (MCM), France	
Current Status of ICH, in Particular, Research and Studies on ICH in Urgent Need of Safeguarding	2012	8	International Field School Alumni Seminar on Safeguarding ICH in the Asia-Pacific	Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Anthropology Centre (SAC), Thailand	
Symposiums in Cooperation with Sakai City, Osaka, Japan	2016	11	2016 International Symposium on ICH Safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific Region "Transmitting Art and Spirit of ICH"	Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan Sakai City	
	2013	8	International Symposium in Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Convention for the Safeguarding of ICH	Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan Sakai City	Japan Arts Council
	2013	2	Symposium on ICH in the Asia-Pacific Region "ICH in the Asia-Pacific Region — Current Status and Important Issues"	Sakai City	National Museum of Ethnology, Japan
	2011	10	IRCI Opening Commemorative Symposium	Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan Sakai City	Japan Arts Council



Preliminary Research on ICH Safeguarding and Disaster-Risk Management in the Asia-Pacific Region: International Working Group Session (Tokyo, Japan, January 2017)



Final Workshop on the Study of Legal Systems Related to Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Greater Mekong Region (Hanoi, Viet Nam, December 2016)

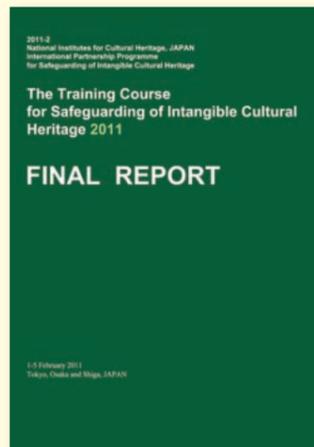


Preliminary Meeting of the Project "Exploring Research for the Safeguarding of ICH in the Asia-Pacific Region" (Bangkok, Thailand, February 2014)

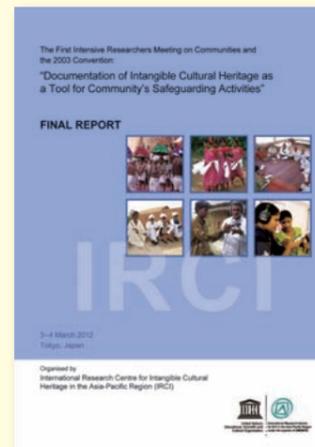


International Symposium in Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Convention for the Safeguarding of ICH (Sakai City, Osaka, August 2013)

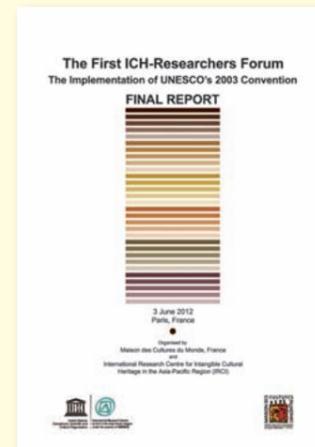
Reports and Publications



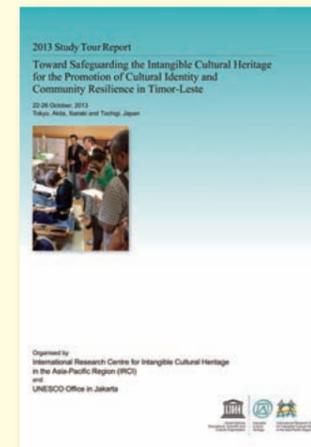
The Training Course for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage 2011 Final Report
(2011)



The First Intensive Researchers Meeting on Communities and the 2003 Convention: "Documentation of Intangible Cultural Heritage as a Tool for Community's Safeguarding Activities" Final Report
(July 2012)



The First ICH-Researchers Forum: "The Implementation of UNESCO's 2003 Convention" (Final Report)
(September 2012)
ISBN 978-4-9906647-0-1



2013 Study Tour Report: Toward Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage for the Promotion of Cultural Identity and Community Resilience in Timor-Leste
(March 2015)
ISBN 978-4-9906647-5-6



Towards Safeguarding Endangered Traditional Crafts in Post-Conflict Areas of Sri Lanka (Japanese edition)
(February 2016)
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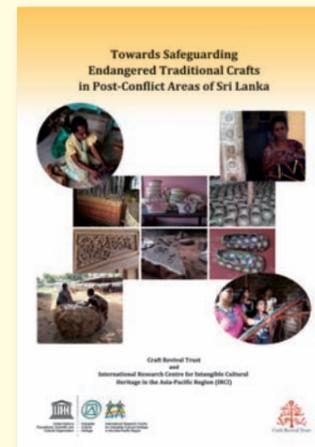
Documentation of ICH as a Tool for Community-led Safeguarding Activities
(March 2016)
ISBN 978-4-9906647-4-9



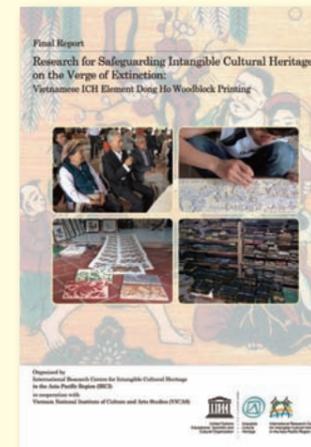
2012 International Field School Alumni Seminar on Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia Pacific
(February 2013)



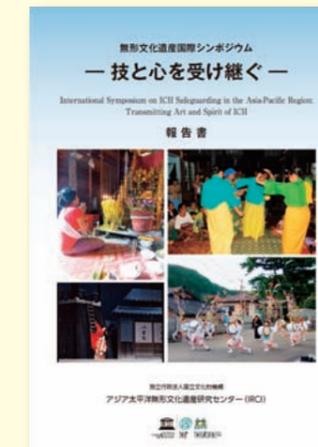
2013 IRCI Meeting on ICH: Evaluating the Inscription Criteria for the Two Lists of UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention (Final Report)
(March 2013)
ISBN 978-4-9906647-1-8



Towards Safeguarding Endangered Traditional Crafts in Post-Conflict Areas of Sri Lanka (English edition)
(September 2014)
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Research for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage on the Verge of Extinction: Vietnamese ICH Element Dong Ho Woodblock Printing
(March 2017) ISBN 978-4-9906647-9-4



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(March 2017)



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(March 2017)

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