

# Asia-Pacific Research Forum for ICH Safeguarding ONLINE SEMINAR 3

## LEARNING FROM THE INITIATIVES OF GOOD SAFEGUARDING PRACTICES IN THE 2003 CONVENTION

### DATE AND TIME

**Thursday, 23 March 2023**

From 14:00 to 15:20 (Japanese standard time) \*GMT+9

Format Zoom webinar, free of charge

Language English only

### PRESENTATIONS



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#### **Safeguarding ICH Element and Building a Bridge between the Community and the State Party**

Gulnara Aitpaeva and Cholponai Usubalieva-Gryshchuk,  
Aigine Cultural Research Center, Kyrgyzstan



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#### **Transmission of ICH through non-formal education: The Schools of Living Traditions (SLT) as an inscribed best safeguarding practice by UNESCO**

Renee Talavera, National Commission for Culture  
and the Arts, the Philippines



© Patrick Maundu, Kenya, 2017

#### **Success story of promoting traditional foods and safeguarding traditional foodways in Kenya**

Patrick Maundu, National Museums of Kenya

### DISCUSSION FACILITATOR

**Ritu Sethi** Chairperson, Craft Revival Trust, India

### REGISTRATION

Scan this code or go to:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_cwvotYW0RCS6LmN0D7zD0A](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cwvotYW0RCS6LmN0D7zD0A)

**Registration deadline: 22 March 2023**

Please contact IRCI [irci@nich.go.jp](mailto:irci@nich.go.jp) if you have difficulties registering online.



# GOOD SAFEGUARDING PRACTICES and PRESENTERS

## Safeguarding the epic heritage, namely Manas.Semetey.Seytek trilogy (Kyrgyzstan)

The presentation will cover the entire process of safeguarding the epic trilogy Manas.Semetey.Seytek from the very first initiative of the Aigine CRC in building a network of epic chanters—manaschy, launching a school for novice bards, and working with them to prepare and produce the first digital version of the contemporary epic recitation. The presentation will focus on the results of this collaboration in inscription of the element into the RL and all further activities and initiatives that have been evolving around the epic heritage. The main focus of the presentation is on conveying a successful model of collaboration between the NGO sector, community and the state party and the results it can lead to. The presentation will also cover unexpected consequences from the process of safeguarding the epic heritage—politicization of the ICH, i.e. using the epic for political purposes.

### Gulnara Aitpaeva

Director, Aigine Cultural Research Center

Aitpaeva, Doctor in Philology, heads the Aigine CRC with the mission of expanding research on lesser-known aspects of the intangible cultural and natural heritage of Kyrgyzstan, integrating folk and scholar epistemologies. 2012–2016, she was a country representative for the Safeguarding of ICH of UNESCO.



### Cholponai Usubalieva-Gryshchuk

Project Coordinator, Aigine Cultural Research Center

Cholponai U-G, graduate of the American University in Central Asia, is with research interest in the epic trilogy and Kyrgyz indigenous worldview.



## The Schools of Living Traditions (The Philippines)

The Schools of Living Traditions (SLT) are community-based non-formal centers of learning wherein cultural masters transmit their traditional knowledge and skills to selected students within the same community. This was conceptualized and initiated in 1995 to integrate traditional culture and its various creative expressions into the national cultural mainstream through the transfer of indigenous, folk, and traditional practices, skills, crafts, and knowledge by recognized cultural masters in the community to the younger generations of a community. To ensure the sustainability of the program, a five-year enhanced scheme was developed in 2015 that consists of traditional knowledge and skills transfer during the first three years, including product development and marketing during the fourth and fifth year, respectively. To date, a total of 29 SLTs are being implemented in various locations in the country. On December 16, 2021, the SLT was recognized as a programme, project, or activity that “best reflects the principles and objectives of the Convention” and was therefore inscribed in the UNESCO Register of Good Safeguarding Practices.

### Renee Talavera

Head, Cultural Communities and Traditional Arts Section, National Commission for Culture and the Art

Talavera is a specialist in anthropology and sociology of education, and an advocate of numerous ICH safeguarding programmes in the country. Some of the most notable programmes she currently manages are the SLT and ICH programmes.



## Success story of promoting traditional foods and safeguarding traditional foodways in Kenya

In Kenya, traditional foodways were under threat due to historical factors and the pressure of modern lifestyles. Understanding that a decline in food diversity and knowledge would have serious ramifications on health and on food and nutrition insecurity, in 2007 Kenya committed to safeguarding related practices and expressions. The first initiative involved inventorying traditional foods, with a focus on traditional vegetables. About 850 indigenous plants with local names were recorded, followed by detailed documentation of use and related indigenous knowledge and practices. For the second initiative, UNESCO in partnership with the Department of Culture and the International and National Museums of Kenya, and in consultation with community leaders, initiated a pilot project to identify and inventory traditional foodways in partnership with primary school children to raise awareness about the threat to traditional foodways. Both initiatives have since led to other related activities carried out independently by local institutions and among other communities in Kenya, Ethiopia and Burkina Faso.

### Patrick Maundu

Ethnobotanist  
National Museums of Kenya

Maundu is an ethnobotanist who has devoted much of his life to researching the indigenous knowledge of African biodiversity, especially in health and nutrition. Maundu led a multi-institutional team of researchers in promoting African leafy vegetables and dietary diversification (2001–2010) in 10 African countries.



## DISCUSSION FACILITATOR

**Ritu Sethi** Chairperson, Craft Revival Trust, India

Founder-trustee of the Craft Revival Trust and editor, Global InCH journal of ICH. Sethi oversees Asia InCH Encyclopedia, the leading repository of heritage arts and crafts in South Asia. Serving on Advisory Committees on culture in India and internationally she has authored and edited several publications.

## Join the Forum Facebook group!

The 'Asia-Pacific Research Forum for ICH Safeguarding' Facebook group is created and managed by IRCI to serve as a common platform for exchanging information related to research for safeguarding ICH in the Asia-Pacific region.

\*The Forum has been established under IRCI's project 'Creation of the Asia-Pacific Regional Hub of Research for the Safeguarding of ICH' (FY 2022–2026), financially supported by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan.



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