

Asia-Pacific Research Forum for ICH Safeguarding  
**Publication Programme for Early Career Researchers  
(2024–2025)**

**General Information**

**Objectives:**

The Asia-Pacific Research Forum for ICH Safeguarding (the Forum) is a platform that has been established by the International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI) to promote research and international cooperation in the region. It has been providing various activities such as online seminars and international conferences by inviting a wide range of participants, including researchers, government officials, museum staff and practitioners of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) within the region. This year, the Forum is offering a new programme for promoting early career researchers on ICH.

The programme aims to encourage early career researchers to become more interested and engaged in research for safeguarding ICH at the international level. The programme will be an opportunity for them to receive guidance and support from experienced ICH scholars and researchers in writing and presenting papers, with the goal of publishing a professional research paper to ensure that their work is more widely recognized.

**Programme overview:**

This programme is designed for early career researchers to develop, present and publish a research paper. It runs over a two-year period and has two phases (Figure 1).

Phase 1 is for the writing sessions with mentors, including the presentation of a paper at the international conference entitled 'New Frontiers of Research for Safeguarding ICH' to be organized by IRCI in 13–15 February 2025 as one of the activities of the Forum. Participants in the programme have the privilege of attending the conference without applying.

Figure 1. Major programme components and timeline



Phase 2 is for the publication of the paper, where participants will go through the processes of finalizing the paper for publication, such as peer review and proofreading. The goal is to have the papers published by March 2026.

Participants can be paired with (an) ICH bearer/practitioner(s) with whom they work closely and co-author a paper.

### Provisional programme outlines and timeframe:

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Detailed publication schedule will be announced by the end of March 2025.</li></ul>
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### **Eligible Applicants:**

Early career researchers (no age limit) who have been working on or have done research on ICH in the Asia-Pacific region and have little or no experience of writing a paper, such as:

- Graduate students and postdoctoral researchers (not undergraduates)
- Researchers who have recently started working on ICH-related topics in the Asia-Pacific region
- Researchers working for NGOs, government agencies, museums, etc.
- ICH practitioners who have been involved in research

Early career researchers who plan to co-author a paper with ICH practitioners/bearers with whom they work closely in research are also welcome.

### **Obligations of Participants:**

- Participants should attend all scheduled activities and commit to the entire programme.
- Participants should adhere to deadlines during the writing sessions.
- Please note that failure to fulfil the obligations will result in the denial of financial support for participating in the face-to-face workshop and the international conference in Japan.

### **Mentors:**

A team of mentors consists primarily of experienced university professors and leading researchers who have been teaching and writing about ICH for journals and other publications. A mentor will be nominated and assigned to each participant based on the research topic.

### **Participation Fee:**

Participation in the programme is free of charge.

International travel expenses (round-trip, economy class airfare and visa fees, if applicable) and local expenses in Japan (airport transfer, accommodation, and per diem) for the period of the face-to-face workshop and the conference will be also covered by IRCI, according to the rules of the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, Japan.