



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Intangible  
Cultural  
Heritage

ITH/15/C2C/3

## THIRD ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING OF CATEGORY 2 CENTRES ACTIVE IN THE FIELD OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Guiyang, China  
6 to 8 July 2015

### Summary report

Category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO are established and funded by Member States to contribute to the achievement of UNESCO's objectives by way of global, regional, subregional or interregional activities. The centres are intended to serve as international or regional centres and poles of expertise or excellence to provide technical assistance and services to Member States, cooperation partners and also to the network of UNESCO field offices. The category 2 centres are expected to contribute directly to achieving the Strategic Programme Objectives or programme priorities and themes of the Organization, and specifically, to UNESCO's programme results at the MLA level.

### **Objectives and participants:**

In its 2012 Policy Brief, [Improving UNESCO's Category 2 Centre Network](#), the United Kingdom National Commission for UNESCO insisted upon the importance of effective networking among the category 2 centres and with UNESCO. As the brief explains, UNESCO 'should provide proactive, central coordination for the category 2 network while also promoting "bottom-up" initiatives, led by centres'. To that end, it encouraged the organization of 'regular and structured meetings, preferably hosted by a category 2 centre'. The first such annual meeting for category 2 centres active in the field of intangible cultural heritage was organized in Sozopol, Bulgaria, 24 to 26 July 2013, with the generous support of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe (Sofia Centre). The second annual meeting was organized at UNESCO Headquarters, 6 June 2014 (in conjunction with the fourth session of the General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage). The third annual meeting was generously hosted by the International Training Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (CRIHAP) in Guiyang, the capital of Guizhou Province, China, from 6 to 8 July 2015. Participants enjoyed the most favourable conditions for fruitful and constructive debates, due

in large part to the effectiveness of the organization of the meeting by the Chinese centre and the warm hospitality provided by it and the host city and province.

Participants included directors and senior representatives from the six centres devoted exclusively to contributing to UNESCO's actions in the field of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, hosted by the countries of Bulgaria, China, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Peru and Republic of Korea. Participation was regrettably not possible from a seventh centre with a shared mandate for both tangible and intangible heritage (in Brazil) and an eighth centre, approved by the General Conference at its 37th Session and currently in the process of being established in Algeria. UNESCO was represented by senior staff from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section and the Bangkok, Beijing and Venice offices (a complete list of participants is found in Annex 1 and the meeting's agenda, in Annex 2).

A webpage for the meeting ([http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/index.php?meeting\\_id=00478](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/index.php?meeting_id=00478)) grew day-by-day to include all of the presentations featured in the meeting as well as a number of reference documents. A dedicated webpage for the category 2 centres specializing in intangible cultural heritage is also constantly updated (<http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/Category2/>) to integrate the key statutory documents for each centre.

### **Content of the discussions:**

The first two global meetings concentrated on the communication of fundamental information from UNESCO to the centres, aimed at establishing a common understanding of the integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 centres ([37/C Resolution 93](#)), UNESCO's Results-Based Management approach and the content of UNESCO's 37 C/4 medium-term strategy and 37 C/5 Approved Programme and Budget (see the meeting webpage for such reference documents). Given that these fundamentals have changed little since 2013, and that on the contrary most of the centres had now gained a solid base of experience, both administrative and programmatic, the third annual meeting focussed on peer-to-peer exchanges among senior staff of each centre. After a brief update on recent developments in the life of the Convention and on the objectives of the meeting presented by Ms Cécile Duvelle, Secretary of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and Chief of the Section for Intangible Cultural Heritage, the remaining sessions were coordinated by the respective centres.

The centre coordinating each session was invited to present both successful experiences and approaches and those that may have been less successful but from which lessons might usefully be drawn by the other centres. Each session had a thematic focus, but the discussions were wide-ranging and often cross-cutting, as issues recurred from one session to another.

**'Information and networking, including through the web'** was coordinated by the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ICHCAP – Republic of Korea). Reporting on ICHCAP's several years of experience in this field, as well as a recent survey conducted among its network of regional collaborators, the Director, Mr Huh Kwon, noted that even a well-resourced and well-established centre such as ICHCAP could not easily maintain a sizable data-gathering operation over time, and thus needed to focus its activities. Referring to category 2 centres in general, he noted their common challenge of differentiating the information that they should concentrate on from the information already being provided by UNESCO. The challenge of each centre is to carve out an appropriate niche in an increasingly crowded information environment. Concerning ICHCAP's recent survey, he noted that when asked, 'Which activity should be given priority as an information-related activity of a category 2 centre?' the greatest proportion (26.4%) of respondents showed a preference for the distribution of information on safeguarding, rather than documentation of ICH expressions or digital archiving of such

documentation. Other centres confirmed the challenges of sustaining over time the gathering and updating of data – complicated for most by questions of language and translation – and the necessity of defining a niche for category 2 centres that is distinct from that of UNESCO itself. Useful suggestions arose about relying less on actively collecting information and more on offering a home for information contributed by others, about the importance of devising common data models that could facilitate information exchange between the centres, and about the importance of trying to reach targeted audiences – particularly NGOs and other civil society organizations – rather than hoping to serve a universal audience.

**‘Collaboration with UNESCO in the global capacity-building programme’** was coordinated by the International Training Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (CRIHAP – China). Its Director, Ms Xu Rong, assisted by her Deputy, Mr Zhang Jing, reported on CRIHAP’s experiences collaborating with UNESCO on several training workshops in Cambodia and Samoa, as well as supporting the global capacity-building programme more generally through hosting a regional review meeting for UNESCO’s network of facilitators. They posed a number of questions to participants centring on how best category 2 centres could work with UNESCO – both the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section and field offices – to respond to the needs of Member States, including how to respond to certain identified opportunities that do not at present fit within the global strategy. UNESCO representatives in turn emphasized the importance that category 2 centres contribute to the implementation of the coordinated overall strategy, soliciting their help in reinforcing the basic framework underlying that strategy and explaining it to Member States – for instance, by insisting when planning activities with States on the need to proceed carefully through the sequence adopted by UNESCO rather than leap-frogging over the basics in their impatience to treat certain topics. Welcoming past and future suggestions from category 2 centres about the strategy and about potential facilitators, UNESCO also noted that its approach was to proceed systematically and not expand the network too quickly at the risk of gaps in quality. Similarly, as some participants confirmed, a careful needs assessment is needed to help UNESCO design an appropriate package of services aimed towards a beneficiary State, further pointing to the need for close coordination of centres with UNESCO rather than parallel or even discordant efforts. Participants identified a number of other future priorities such as strengthening tertiary and professional education, translation of UNESCO curriculum materials into additional languages, and creating online resources, if they could retain an interactive approach.

**‘Approaches to programme planning and budgeting’** was coordinated by the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe (Sofia Centre – Bulgaria). The Director, Mr Hristo Hristov Angelichin, explained how the Sofia Centre has anchored its programme planning and budgeting in several core documents – notably, the 2010 Agreement between UNESCO and the Republic of Bulgaria and the centre’s own 2012 Long Term Programme (adopted by its General Assembly). The centre has endeavoured since the Sozopol meeting in 2013 to fully integrate the Results-Based Management (RBM) approach into the preparation of its annual work plans for 2014 and 2015, grounding them solidly in the areas of overlap between the aforementioned Agreement and Long Term Programme and UNESCO’s Approved Programme and Budget (37 C/5). The Tehran Centre thanked the Sofia Centre for the help and good example it provided when the former was defining its own RBM-based work plan. In the ensuing discussion, several centres noted the difficulty of coordinating governance meetings with host-country budget cycles and the possible advantages of moving to multi-year programme planning in order to provide greater continuity. UNESCO representatives posed the question (related in some cases to such problems of scheduling) of centres undertaking activities prior to approval by their governing bodies or independent of such approval, and emphasized the importance for centre directors to be able to defend their actions – if criticisms might arise from Member States, from within their own countries or from UNESCO – by referring to the decisions of governing bodies. In that context, one means of balancing flexibility with good governance is for the centres to ask their governing bodies to approve any extra-budgetary activities as part of the annual work

plan, with their actual implementation contingent on the later identification of funding. Centres also discussed the structural tension in governance from the fact that the host country provides the centre's entire budget, but representatives of other Member States sit on the governing body, without their own countries having contributed to the centre's budget. Centres agreed that having greater financial support from Member States other than the host country was an important target.

**'Approaches to governance and getting the most from your governing body(ies)'**, coordinated by the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Latin America (CRESPIAL – Peru), continued the discussions of effective governance. The Director, Mr Fernando Villafuerte Medina, explained the multi-level governance of CRESPIAL: a Governing Board including representatives of each of its 15 Member States and of the UNESCO Director-General is the supreme governing body. A smaller Executive Committee of five Member States (including Peru as permanent member) prepares and supports the work of the Governing Board, and the Board's decisions are implemented by the Secretariat, under the direction of a Director. A number of CRESPIAL's activities are multi-country and, during their implementation, the respective Member States are involved both in co-financing and in project management. Mr Villafuerte posed several questions to the other centres about their own respective governance models and how they balance Member State involvement in management and implementation against the risk of micromanagement. The Sofia Centre shares with CRESPIAL the model of each participating Member State sitting in the supreme governing body, while for the other centres only selected representatives of other countries sit on that body, and participants agreed that the CRESPIAL/Sofia model might not be well-suited for centres serving a far larger number of Member States. Participants emphasized the importance, in those cases, for a transparent system of rotation that could bring in representatives of different Member States over time, and UNESCO representatives recalled that an important part of a regional centre's identity is to have clear indications of willingness to participate from Member States in the region. The effectiveness of the supreme governing body could be increased, participants mentioned, by a smoothly functioning executive board and, in certain conditions, an advisory board.

**'Cooperation with Member States in planning and implementing programmes'**, coordinated by the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia (Tehran Centre – Islamic Republic of Iran), maintained the focus on effective programme planning and participatory governance of the two preceding sessions. The Tehran Centre's Director, Mr Yadollah Parmoun, explained that its Governing Council (its supreme governing body) is based on representation of selected Member States, rather than full participation of all as is the case with CRESPIAL and the Sofia Centre. The Tehran Centre nevertheless found the means to invite all participating States to attend its recent Governing Council as observers, and they were able to join in the debates if not the decisions. Mr Parmoun spoke of the imperative to create confidence in the centre among the Member States, and of the need to do so with equality, synergy and cooperation. Of particular note was the Tehran Centre's invitation to all Member States to inform it of their own needs for capacity building and of opportunities for cooperation, so that these could potentially be built into the centre's work plans for 2016 and future years. He closed by posing several questions to participants, including whether several specific regional or sub-regional activities could be appropriate means of involving Member States more closely in the work of the centre. In the ensuing discussion, participants emphasized the value – indeed, the necessity – of cooperation not only with Member States but with other centres, whether this arose from a shared geographic scope or a shared thematic focus. UNESCO representatives raised concerns with two of the sub-regional activities mentioned – elaborating multinational nominations and creating a common inventory – wondering whether either fell within the priorities for category 2 centres, and reiterated the point raised by several participants in earlier discussions that national capacity-building activities had greater impact and effectiveness than regional ones.

**‘Evaluation and renewal’** was coordinated by the International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI – Japan), the second centre to embark upon the evaluation and renewal process (after CRESPIAL in 2013-14). The Director, Mr Akio Arata, explained that the six-month schedule set out in the integrated comprehensive strategy is not realistic and that the IRCI evaluation process took more than a year from beginning to end, with the renewal still underway and possibly expected to take as long as another year (until the Spring 2016 session of UNESCO’s Executive Board). He described the responsibilities of the centre to provide to the evaluator a complete set of governance documents and reports, and to organize interviews for the evaluator with relevant members of the centre, its governing body and the government agencies concerned. He shared the key recommendations of the evaluation and mentioned a number of immediate measures IRCI has put in place to respond to them, while negotiations proceed in parallel between UNESCO and the Government of Japan concerning the revised draft agreement. In the interim between the expiration of the present agreement in August 2015 and the execution of a revised agreement, the present agreement would be extended for a brief period. During the discussion, participants posed specific questions about the procedures for both the evaluation and the renewal, emphasizing that the process was not a quick one, while UNESCO representatives recalled the usefulness of the exercise for all parties concerned – the centre itself, its host government and UNESCO – in providing a snapshot or diagnostic of the centre’s operations and offering recommendations to all three for ameliorations.

### **Conclusion:**

The meeting was successful and pertinent, since its purposes were fully achieved, and it was considered very useful by all participants because it responds to a clear need to strengthen cooperation among category 2 centres, particularly given that the centres tend to work in isolation among themselves, and sometimes even in competition. Members spoke of continuing the annual meeting schedule, with the possibility of other less formal meetings during the year also viewed favourably.

The need to identify common areas and possible fields of cooperation was recalled several times by the centres, and the will to collaborate seems to be strong especially in centres sharing the same region, i.e. in Asia-Pacific and the Caucasus regions. The centres agreed also on the importance of the evaluation process and renewal of the agreement between UNESCO and the hosting countries. That process was identified as an opportunity to improve their efficiencies and also as a tool to raise visibility and funds at the national level from their own national governments and other potential partners.

The centres requested to have guidance on the biennial report that they are to submit to UNESCO with information on the contribution of their activities to UNESCO’s strategic programme objectives as foreseen in the integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres. UNESCO agreed to work on specific procedures to facilitate this mandatory task. Furthermore UNESCO agreed to make available the training curricula of the UNESCO capacity-building programme in order for the centres to translate and use them, especially those whose mandate specifically includes training. As emphasized throughout the discussions, the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section’s concentration on capacity building as its highest priority for the coming years offers ample scope for contributions from all of the category 2 centres, both those that specifically include ‘training’ in their agreed functions and those whose functions centre on research, information and networking.



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CRIHAP

International Training Center  
for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region  
under the auspices of UNESCO

联合国教科文组织亚太地区非物质文化遗产国际培训中心

## THIRD ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING OF CATEGORY 2 CENTRES ACTIVE IN THE FIELD OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Guiyang, China  
6 to 8 July 2015

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

#### UNESCO Officials:

1. Ms Cécile DUVELLE

Secretary, Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

Chief of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section, UNESCO Headquarters

2. Mr. Giovanni SCEPI

Assistant Programme Specialist, Programme Implementation Unit, Intangible Cultural Heritage Section,  
Cultural Sector, UNESCO Headquarters

3. Mr. Timothy CURTIS

Chief of Culture Unit, UNESCO Bangkok Office

4. Ms Himalchuli GURUNG

Chief of Culture Unit, UNESCO Beijing Office

5. Mr. Matteo ROSATI

Programme Specialist, Culture Unit, UNESCO Venice Office

#### Representatives from category 2 centres:

1. Mr. Fernando VILLAFUERTE MEDINA

Managing Director, Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Latin America  
(CRESPIAL)

2. Ms Zhulieta HARASANI

Chairperson of the General Assembly of Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe (Sofia Centre)

3. Mr. HristoHristov ANGELICHIN

Executive Director, Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe (Sofia Centre)

4. Mr. Akio ARATA

Director-General, International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI)

5. Mr. Shigeaki KODAMA

Associate Fellow, International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI)

6. Mr. Yadollah PARMOUN

Director-General, Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia (Tehran Centre)

7. Mr. Aghil GUDARZI

Advisor in International & Inter-organizational Affairs, Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia (Tehran Centre)

8. Mr. HUH Kwon

Director-General, International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ICHCAP)

9. Mr. PARK Seong-Yong

Assistant Director-General, International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ICHCAP)

10. Ms CHOI Milee

Programme Officer, International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ICHCAP)

11. Ms XU Rong

Director-General, International Training Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (CRIHAP)

12. Mr. ZHANG Jing

Deputy Director-General, International Training Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (CRIHAP)

13. GE Yuqing

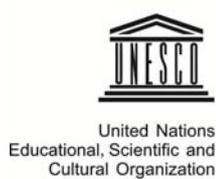
Director, division of training, International Training Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (CRIHAP)

14. Ms YUAN Jie

Director, division of research, International Training Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (CRIHAP)

15. Ms ZHAO Weixia

Research Specialist, division of research, International Training Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (CRIHAP)



**CRIHAP**

International Training Centre  
for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region  
under the auspices of UNESCO

## THIRD ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING OF CATEGORY 2 CENTRES ACTIVE IN THE FIELD OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

### AGENDA

#### Sunday, 5 July 2015 Guizhou Park Hotel

Time		Venue
	Registration of Participants	Lobby
12:00	<b>lunch</b>	Western dining hall, first floor
18:00	<b>dinner</b>	Western dining hall, first floor

#### Monday, 6 July 2015 Guizhou Park Hotel

Time		Venue
07:00	<b>breakfast</b>	Western dining hall, first floor
09:00–9:40	1. Opening and welcomes ①welcome songs (10Minutes) ②welcome by Guizhou province official (3 Minutes) ③remarks by representative chairman of GB of CRIHAP (3 Minutes) ④remarks by UNESCO official(3 Minutes) ⑤welcome by the Ministry of Culture (3 Minutes) ⑥introduction of participants Moderator: Xu Rong, DG of CRIHAP	No.5 conference room, 1F, Guizhou Park Hotel International Conference Centre

9:40-10:10	Photo-taking & Tea Break	
10:10-10:50	2. Objectives of the meeting and recent developments in the life of the Convention	
10:50-12:20	3. Information and networking, including through the web <i>Coordinated by ICHCAP</i>	
12:30	<b>lunch</b>	Western dining hall, first floor
14:00-15:30	4. Collaboration with UNESCO in the global capacity-building programme <i>Coordinated by CRIHAP</i>	No.5 conference room, 1F,
15:30-15:50	Tea Break	Guizhou Park Hotel
15:50-17:20	5. Approaches to programme planning and budgeting <i>Coordinated by Sofia Centre</i>	International Conference Centre
18:30	<b>dinner</b>	Western dining hall, first floor

**Tuesday, 7 July 2015 Guizhou Park Hotel**

<b>Time</b>		<b>Venue</b>
07:00	<b>breakfast</b>	Western dining hall, first floor
9:00-10:30	6. Approaches to governance and getting the most from your governing body(ies) <i>Coordinated by CRESPIAL</i>	No.5 conference room, 1F,
10:30-10:50	Tea Break	Guizhou Park Hotel
10:50-12:20	7. Cooperation with Member States in planning and implementing programmes <i>Coordinated by Tehran Centre</i>	International Conference Centre
12:30	<b>lunch</b>	Western dining hall, first floor
14:00-15:30	8. Evaluation and renewal <i>Coordinated by IRCI</i>	No.5 conference room, 1F,

15:30-15:50	Tea Break	Guizhou Park Hotel
15:50-17:20	9. Closing summary	International Conference Centre
18:30	<b>dinner</b>	Western dining hall, first floor
19:30-21:30	10.Side meeting of CRIHAP, ICHCAP & IRCI	Zunyi Hall, 2F, Guizhou Park Hotel International Conference Centre

**Wednesday, 8 July 2015 Guizhou Park Hotel**

<b>Time</b>		<b>Venue</b>
07:00	<b>breakfast</b>	Western dining hall, first floor
	Cultural excursion, lunch at site	
	<b>dinner</b>	Western dining hall, first floor

**Thursday, 9 July 2015 Guizhou Park Hotel**

<b>Time</b>		<b>Venue</b>
	<b>departure</b>	
	<b>breakfast ,lunch &amp;dinner</b>	Western dining hall, first floor