ROUNDTABLE
Intangible cultural heritage and tertiary education

Side event at the twelfth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

Concept note

Date & time: Tuesday, 5 December, 2017 from 13:15 to 14:30 (a light lunch will be offered by ICHCAP from 12:45).

The event is also being webcast online (local time Republic of Korea)

Venue: International Convention Center Jeju, Tamna Hall (main meeting room)

Languages: English with French interpretation.

Conveners: The International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ICHCAP) in collaboration with the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Section.

Objective: The goal of the side event is to share recent experiences on how tertiary education institutions integrate intangible cultural heritage in different countries and contexts in order to generate interest and ideas for future work and networking on this topic.

Background: UNESCO recognizes the important role that tertiary education institutions play in training future decision-makers, planners and administrators to work in the field of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. It also observes that, currently, teaching about intangible cultural heritage is highly dispersed throughout different disciplines (heritage studies, anthropology, environment, etc.). At the same time, most heritage studies still tend to focus more on tangible rather than intangible cultural heritage and intangible cultural heritage is not a common subject in cultural studies and cultural management programmes.

As a Regional Symposium in Asia-Pacific on integrating intangible cultural heritage in tertiary education showed, a great diversity of approaches exist. These include, but are not limited to:

- Dedicated programmes on intangible heritage;
- Integrating intangible heritage in other degrees/programmes of the culture field, such as heritage studies, anthropology, cultural management, etc.; and
- Interdisciplinary courses/lecture series hosted by one specific department, but bringing in staff from other relevant faculties (i.e. human and social sciences, education, legal studies, environment, and indigenous studies).
Following a request from the regional Symposium, ICHCAP is supporting networking in Asia-Pacific amongst universities that are integrating intangible heritage in their programmes. The support includes collaboration with the UNESCO Office in Bangkok in conducting a survey on existing ICH-related tertiary programmes to assess the interest of universities to join an Asia-Pacific university network. UNESCO is supporting similar surveys and symposia in Latin America and the Caribbean (2017) and in Africa (2018). In parallel, the European network on cultural management and policy (ENCATC) is undertaking related work in Europe. These regional activities are confirming the wide interest in the topic and reinforcing that there is no one model for integrating intangible heritage in tertiary education as contexts vary greatly.

Through networking, universities can exchange on different approaches to enrich their own programmes and better understand how to integrate intangible heritage effectively. Thus, the present panel will facilitate discussion on how tertiary education institutions are going about the work of integrating intangible cultural heritage.

Participants:
Representatives of States Parties to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, accredited NGOs, facilitators from the UNESCO network and individual experts present at the twelfth session of the Intergovernmental Committee interested in intangible cultural heritage and tertiary education.

Format:
The 75-minute roundtable discussion will include introductory remarks from the organizers and the UNESCO Secretariat and then the moderator will lead a Q & A style discussion session.

Organizer:  
Kwon HUH — Director-General, ICHCAP.

Moderator:  
Jyoti HOSAGRAHAR — UNESCO, Director, Division for Creativity.

Speakers:  
Barbra BABWETEERA — Deputy Director of The Cross Cultural Foundation of Uganda (CCFU).

Tiago DE OLIVEIRA PINTO — Professor of Musicology, University of Music Franz Liszt Weimar and UNESCO Chair on Transcultural Music Studies.

Duong Bich HANH — Chief of Unit and UNESCO Programme Specialist for Culture, UNESCO Office in Bangkok.

Annie TOHME TABET — anthropologist and Professor at Saint Joseph University of Beirut.