

# CRIHAP

## Newsletter

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Editor of the Issue  
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## Activities of CRIHAP

### CRIHAP Governing Board holds 12<sup>th</sup> session

On April 13 in 2023, CRIHAP held the 12<sup>th</sup> session of its Governing Board in Beijing, combining both online and offline methods. Wang Yongjian, first inspector for the Bureau of International Exchanges and Cooperation at China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism, chaired the session on behalf of Zhang Xu, the Chairperson of the Governing Board. Members of the board attended the session, while members of CRIHAP's Advisory Committee as well as representatives from the Chinese Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO, the UNESCO Beijing Office, the International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI) and the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IHCAP), participated as nonvoting delegates. The board reviewed and approved CRIHAP's annual work report and the 2023 work plan, among other matters.

Despite the lack of conditions to organize cross-border on-site training, CRIHAP persisted in conducting ICH capacity-building trainings (primarily online), and organized a total of eight international training workshops throughout 2022. These training activities fall into three priority categories: training of trainers, training on working mechanisms of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, and related training under ICH and sustainable development, including five themes such as youth, creative industries and climate change. These workshops have benefited more than 500 people from nine countries in three sub-regions of Northeast Asia, Central Asia, and Southeast Asia. In addition, CRIHAP also assisted UNESCO headquarters in training nearly 100 new members of UNESCO's Global Network of Facilitators in ICH safeguarding from around the world.

Most of CRIHAP's training workshops in 2022 had continuity and coherence, which has substantial significance for consolidating training effectiveness and accumulating cooperation resources and

channels in target countries. For example, there were four training workshops, each belonging to a three-year plan customized by CRIHAP for relevant countries and themes. The training workshops for the Philippines and Laos were the third or second phase of their respective three-year plans, and the Workshop on Capacity Building for ICH Safeguarding for the Youth from China, Japan, South Korea and Mongolia was the second phase of a three-year youth training programme.

The proportion of "ICH+" themed training was also relatively large, further enhancing the attractiveness and sustainability of training. This type of training focuses on themes within and across fields such as ICH and youth, climate change and creative industries. It conforms to UNESCO's recent priority of intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development and also meets countries' practical training needs.

Last year, CRIHAP continued to promote the branding construction of youth training, making "CRIHAP," "youth training" and "short video shooting" three key words for CRIHAP's training branding. The youth training session for China, Japan, South Korea and Mongolia in 2022 marked the second phase of a three-year customized youth training plan, using short videos to strengthen the impact. After the training, a total of 50 intangible cultural heritage short videos were collected. CRIHAP also introduced follow-up actions and signed cooperation agreements with six universities that sent participants to the training, determining plans for future projects such as joint field investigations, shooting and production of intangible cultural heritage videos.

In combined online and offline training, more offline practice and case collection and sharing were conducted, which increased interaction between trainers and trainees and among trainees. For example, the Workshop on Capacity Building for ICH Safeguarding for the Youth guided young trainees from China, Japan, South Korea and Mongolia to complete 50 short videos on local intangible cultural heritage during a two-week offline practice period. During the Workshop on Capacity Building for ICH Safeguarding for the Youth and Digital Technology for Laos, trainees were divided into five groups to discuss traditional Lao pottery-making techniques and basketry weaving skills, Luang Prabang language recitation, letter system inheritance and development and other issues. The Capacity Building Workshop for Training of Trainers on ICH Safeguarding for the Philippines introduced five intangible cultural heritage elements in the country as samples, including the ritual of Padásal, the handloom weaving technique, and the Pagrara and Paghabol

weaving techniques, designing ICH safeguarding plans and developing ICH-related policies.

The Governing Board fully recognizes CRIHAP's exploration of innovative work methods and its achievements in the past year. They believe CRIHAP has overcome difficulties, persisted in conducting training primarily online and carried out activities in the field of ICH safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific region, enhancing ICH safeguarding in the region and globally.

Wang Yongjian pointed out that since its establishment 10 years ago, CRIHAP has actively cooperated with UNESCO in carrying out various tasks under the framework of the Convention and has achieved positive results recognized by UNESCO headquarters, its Asia-Pacific offices and member states in the Asia-Pacific region. On behalf of the board, Wang Yongjian expressed gratitude to the guidance from UNESCO headquarters and its Beijing office, the advice of the Advisory Committee members and the support of all parties towards CRIHAP.

Sato Kuni, Deputy Director-General of the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage in Japan (representing Hiroshi Shimatani, President of the institutes and member of the CRIHAP Governing Board) and Seung-bum Lim, Senior Researcher of World Heritage Division at Cultural Heritage Administration of the Republic of Korea (representing Yaena Lee, Director of the division and member of the CRIHAP Governing Board), both said the positive results brought by CRIHAP's continued hosting of international training have effectively promoted ICH safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific region. Both representatives expressed their hope for continued, deep cooperation among ICH safeguarding centres in China, Japan and South Korea in the fields of training, information, networks and research.

Li Xiaosong, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage at China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism (representing Wang Chenyang, Director-General of the department and member of the CRIHAP Governing Board), said he believes CRIHAP's training in 2022 is effective and has made significant contributions to capacity-building for ICH safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific region. He suggested that CRIHAP compile the outstanding results of its training over the past decade into a book for further sharing and communication.

Cui Ying, Deputy Secretary General of the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO, on behalf of the committee, expressed appreciation for CRIHAP's work. She said CRIHAP focuses not only on training course design but also on the effectiveness of training. She suggested CRIHAP summarize its online training experiences over the





past three years, and looks forward to CRIHAP resuming offline training as soon as possible.

Duong Bich Hanh, Programme Specialist for Culture at the UNESCO Beijing Office and member of the board, said that despite the difficulties faced by training organizations in the past year due to the pandemic, CRIHAP's combined online and offline trainings have been meaningful and effective. She affirmed the friendly cooperation between CRIHAP and the Secretariat of the Convention as well as two other international training centres for ICH safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific region in Japan and South Korea over the past few years. She also suggested all parties continue to strengthen communication, sharing, feedback and collaboration.

Mounir Bouchenaki, Advisor to the Director-General of UNESCO for cultural heritage, and Bamo Qubumo, Vice President of the China Folklore Society, both expressed their appreciation for CRIHAP's practice of increasing efficiency in training by seeking synchronization with all parties under the framework of the Convention.

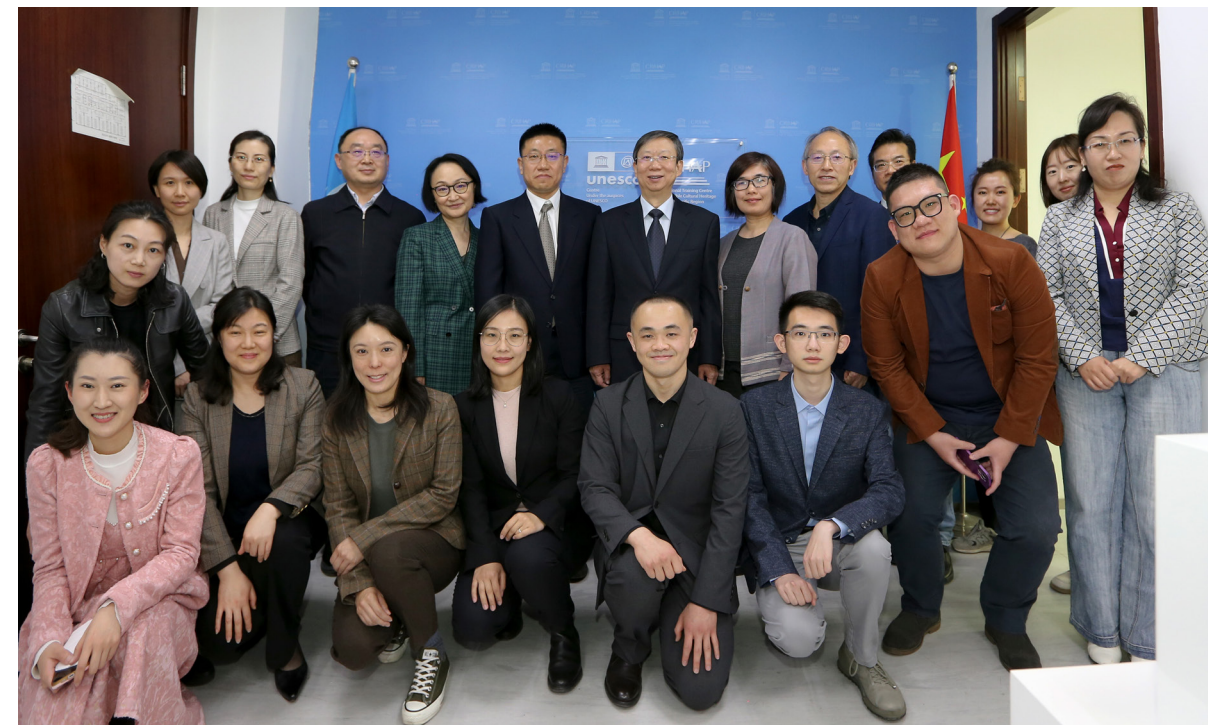
As its business continues to develop and expand, CRIHAP's visibility and influence in the region are increasing. In 2023, CRIHAP is expected to keep fulfilling its responsibilities as a Category 2 Centre and cooperate with UNESCO's capacity-

building strategy to provide training services for member states in the Asia-Pacific region under the framework of the Convention.

CRIHAP plans to hold 11 training workshops in 2023. The workshops will include four regional sessions, five sub-regional sessions, and two national sessions. The main themes will continue in line with UNESCO's established capacity-building courses in intangible cultural heritage safeguarding, and will continue to focus on UNESCO's key issues such as youth and training of trainers. At the same time, CRIHAP will explore cross-disciplinary topics, such as further integrating ICH and education, ICH and climate change, ICH in urban areas and ICH and sustainable tourism.

CRIHAP is actively collecting and organizing information, participating in national, regional and international seminars, compiling the bilingual International Newsletter for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, hosting international exchanges and cooperation and sharing information on intangible cultural heritage, and completing the English edition of the Basic Documents for the Convention and Capacity Building Training Practices.

CRIHAP has also used other means to closely monitor and research the latest developments in UNESCO's strategy for capacity-building in intangible cultural heritage and the latest focal



points in the development of ICH safeguarding worldwide. CRIHAP is expected to further grasp ICH safeguarding situations in countries where training is conducted, develop targeted training programmes and incorporate content into training courses so these achievements can better serve ICH safeguarding in more countries. At the same time, through forms such as training assessments and follow-up publication of training outcomes, CRIHAP will support countries where training is conducted to carry out follow-up activities related to ICH safeguarding and research.

To fully implement UNESCO's overall requirements for capacity building in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, and in conjunction with the diverse needs of relevant countries in the Asia-Pacific region for international training over the past decade, CRIHAP will strengthen its tracking and interpretation of UNESCO's strategies, policies, and measures related to the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, such as intangible cultural heritage and education, youth, gender, small island developing states, and the reform of the listing mechanism of the Convention and other latest policies related to the Convention. CRIHAP will strive to ensure that training practices are in line with these strategies and themes. In addition, CRIHAP will cooperate with UNESCO headquarters in evaluating CRIHAP's work, in preparation for renewal of agreements.

The board holds the view CRIHAP's 2023 work plan is closely linked with UNESCO's strategies and caters to the needs of countries where training is conducted. The plan's contents are rich and feasible.

Li Xiaosong, Bamocubu Moni, Monir Buschnaki and Consultative Committee member Noriko Aikawa-Faure all expressed their hope that CRIHAP would pay attention to the 20th anniversary of the Convention in 2023, improving its design while continuing to hold high-quality training courses and promoting the Convention in the Asia-Pacific region.

Professor Gao Bingzhong, Director of the Academic Committee at Beijing Normal University's Institute of Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences, suggested that CRIHAP focus on case accumulation, interpretation and sharing, and prepare for the further deepening of its already "routine and familiar" training business.

Daisuke Machida, Japan's newly appointed Director-General of IRCL, and Bo Young Cha, South Korea's representative of ICHCAP and Director of the Planning and Management Office at ICHCAP, both said they look forward to continuing their close cooperation with CRIHAP in 2023.



# Online workshop enhances capacity for Indonesia and Malaysia



The “Capacity Building Workshop on Intangible Cultural Heritage and World Heritage Promoting Sustainable Development for Indonesia and Malaysia” successfully took place online from November 6 to 8, 2023. This workshop was organized by the International Training Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO (CRIHAP), in collaboration with the UNESCO Jakarta Office. Over 100 participants from Indonesia and Malaysia actively participated in the training.

UNESCO facilitator Alexandra Denes was invited to lecture, supported by heritage experts Richard Adams Engelhardt and Agni Malagina.

The training commenced with an overview of heritage and cultural diversity concepts, providing a brief introduction to the background and key focus areas of UNESCO conventions. Special attention was given to exploring the connection between heritage and human creativity, along with the characteristics of intergenerational transmission. The trainers compared

various heritage types, emphasizing the “dynamic” and “shared” features of intangible cultural heritage. They analyzed factors posing threats to its sustainability and underscored the central role of communities in heritage protection and enjoyment.

This training session extensively employed interactive software and platforms. For instance, Mentimeter, an interactive platform, facilitated post-training exercises and Q&A sessions, enriching the online training experience and capturing participants' attention. This approach fostered active communication among participants, reinforcing their comprehension and retention of key points from the training course.

Since its establishment, CRIHAP has consistently prioritized Southeast Asia as a focal region. Recognizing the diverse member states and the varying capacities for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in this region, the training adopted a national-level approach. It delivered targeted and highly relevant training for participating trainees from member states, effectively enhancing the overall capacity for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in Indonesia and Malaysia. CRIHAP intends to continue supporting the region in response to the growing demand for awareness and capacity enhancement in intangible heritage safeguarding, contributing to ongoing efforts for the safeguarding and sustainable development of intangible cultural heritage in the Southeast Asian region.

# Training of Trainers workshop for Asia-Pacific region successfully concluded in Chengdu



The “Training of Trainers - Asia and the Pacific Chapter of the Global Network of Facilitators of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage” wrapped up in Chengdu on October 17, 2023. This program was a collaborative effort between the International Training Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO (CRIHAP), UNESCO's Living Heritage Entity and UNESCO's Multisectoral Regional Office for East Asia. Additionally, it received support from the Chengdu Municipal Bureau of Culture, Broadcast-TV, and Tourism. Over 30 participants, including newly-appointed trainers from countries such as China, India, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, and the Philippines, as well as representatives from UNESCO's field offices in the Asia-Pacific region, actively participated in the training.

Zhang Jing, Deputy Director-General of CRIHAP, and Duong Bich Hanh, Head of Cultural Affairs at UNESCO's Multisectoral Regional Office for East Asia, were present at the closing ceremony and delivered speeches. Zhang Jing expressed his satisfaction with the collaboration with the trainers and expressed CRIHAP's willingness to expand collaboration models and scopes, with the objective of enhancing the capacity for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in the region. Duong Bich Hanh warmly congratulated the newly certified trainers on their official “entry into the workforce” and emphasized the pivotal role of the global network of facilitators in the implementation of UNESCO's global capacity-building strategy. She expressed her hope for increased collaboration and communication among the trainers, between trainers and institutions like CRIHAP, and among various institutions, all dedicated to the cause of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.

Throughout the intensive six-day training program, participants engaged in various flexible learning methods, including classroom lectures, field visits, case analyses, group discussions, group presentations, and interactive games. They gained a deeper understanding of the Convention and its mechanisms and delved into topics related to living heritage, including legal policies, documentation and safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, ethical principles, and sustainable development. They also clarified the roles, responsibilities, and methods of participation for trainers in various aspects of intangible cultural heritage capacity building.

The training participants, alongside UNESCO facilitator Linina Phuttitarn, also took part in the 8th





International Festival of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Chengdu. This allowed them to have a firsthand and immersive experience in observing China's safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage and its practices.

CRIHAP remains steadfast in its commitment to providing precise and effective intangible cultural heritage capacity-building services to countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The inclusion of new trainers significantly bolsters the training resources in the Asia-Pacific region, infusing fresh vigor into the global network of facilitators. CRIHAP, along with UNESCO's headquarters and its field offices, both new and experienced trainers, and relevant departments across the Asia-Pacific region, will work collectively to make a more substantial contribution to the implementation of UNESCO's capacity-building strategy and elevate the overall capacity for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in the Asia-Pacific region.

## Training-of-Trainers for periodic reporting in the Asia-Pacific region successfully held online

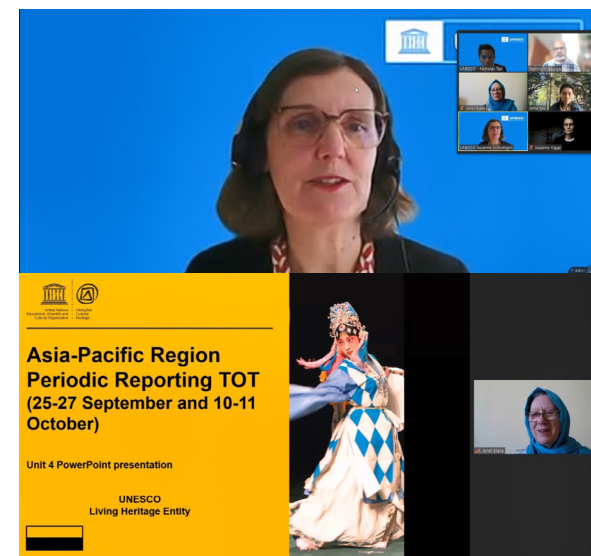
A workshop titled "Training-of-Trainers for Periodic Reporting in the Asia-Pacific Region" was conducted smoothly online from September 25 to 27 and again from October 10 to 11, 2023. The event was jointly organized by the International Training Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO (CRIHAP) and UNESCO Headquarters. Susanne Schnüttgen, the Head of UNESCO's Living Heritage Entity, attended the opening ceremony and stressed UNESCO's strong commitment to the effective implementation of the Convention by all state parties. She expressed the hope that this training workshop would enable participants to gain a comprehensive understanding of the mechanisms and content of periodic reporting, helping them better carry out training activities to guide relevant personnel from each state party to address practical issues during the periodic reporting writing process. Zhang Jing, Deputy Director-General of CRIHAP, stated that the centre is dedicated to aligning with UNESCO's capacity-building strategy to help state parties strengthen their abilities in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, ultimately facilitating their implementation of the Convention.

Beginning in 2018, UNESCO initiated a reform mechanism for periodic reporting, with the submission of periodic reports rotating based on geographical distribution. According to the new regulations, the Asia-Pacific region is scheduled to submit its periodic report by the end of 2024. In order to assist state parties in establishing mechanisms for regular review and summarization, improving the quality of periodic reports, and increasing the number of submissions, UNESCO has gradually initiated training activities worldwide to enhance the capacity for writing periodic reports.

The current training workshop invited senior UNESCO facilitator, Janet Blake and Gamini Wijesuriya, to provide instruction. It had participation from more than ten countries in the Asia-Pacific region, with 12 UNESCO trainers and experts in the field of intangible heritage safeguarding.

During the training sessions, the facilitators introduced the newly revised periodic reporting mechanisms and the Overall Results Framework of the 2003 Convention. They used online demonstrations to help trainees become familiar with and proficient in using the online periodic reporting forms. Considering that the participating trainees will be responsible for providing guidance on the writing of periodic reports for state parties in the Asia-Pacific region in the future, the training emphasized the importance of collaboration and information sharing with relevant stakeholders during data collection. It also prepared the trainees for a mentoring role in future training for state parties and in the process of report writing.

This training is part of a thematic series specifically designed for the Asia-Pacific region by UNESCO, following UNESCO's previous efforts to conduct periodic report training activities in the Latin America and Caribbean region and the European region. According to the plan, the Asia-Pacific region's periodic report training will be divided into three stages. The current training represents the first stage, aimed at promoting knowledge exchange among trainers in the Asia-Pacific region and establishing a collaborative network as a foundation. Participants will be deeply involved in the subsequent two stages of periodic report liaison officer training.





# Training of Trainers Capacity Building Workshop on Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage for Mongolia (First Session) held in Ulaanbaatar



The Training of Trainers Capacity Building Workshop on Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage for Mongolia (First Session) was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from Sept 18 to 22, 2023. This workshop was organized by CRIHAP, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of Mongolia and the National Center for Cultural Heritage of Mongolia. It was supported by the UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office for East Asia and the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO. Shahbaz Khan, Director and Representative of UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office for East Asia, B. Davaatseren, Head of the Cultural Heritage Department of the Mongolian Ministry of Culture, and Zhang Jing, Deputy Director-General of CRIHAP, attended the opening ceremony and delivered remarks.

Shahbaz Khan emphasized that this year marks the 20th anniversary of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, and strengthening the capacity of all relevant stakeholders in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage remains a top priority of the Convention. CRIHAP has been a strong partner of UNESCO in promoting the implementation of the global capacity-building strategy for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in the Asia-Pacific region.

Davaatseren stated that Mongolia's nomadic culture has nurtured rich intangible cultural heritage resources, and Mongolia will carry out various initiatives in intangible cultural heritage safeguarding, including the revision of its national intangible cultural heritage laws, which requiring more involvement and support. This training comes at an opportune time, and it is hoped that participants will disseminate their knowledge of intangible cultural heritage to the Mongolian public, enabling the intangible cultural heritage on the territory of Mongolia to be better safeguarded.

Zhang Jing said that this workshop is the first session of the three-year training of trainers capacity building workshop on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage designed in response

to Mongolia's needs. He expressed hope that participants would benefit from this training and continue with the subsequent two sessions. Zhang also affirmed CRIHAP's commitment to supporting Mongolia's capacity building for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage to enhance the role of intangible cultural heritage in sustainable development.

This session is an important supplement to Mongolia's National Cultural Education Trainer Programme, and it aims at integrating intangible cultural heritage into Mongolia's nationwide cultural education system, and further raising awareness and capacity for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in Mongolia. The training was attended by 40 trainees, including officials from the cultural and arts departments of Ulaanbaatar and 21 provinces, personnel from provincial cultural centers as well as individuals working in the field of cultural heritage. UNESCO facilitators Alexandra Denes and Saruul Arslan were invited to conduct this session.

The workshop put an emphasis on the method of combining theory and practice, with participants conducting field works in small groups to local communities under the guidance of facilitators. They explored seven intangible cultural heritage elements, including horse-head fiddle making, traditional boot making, wood carving, traditional costume making, traditional healing methods, traditional belt making, and traditional dance. They used these examples as a basis for practicing the development of intangible cultural heritage safeguarding plans.

The training received positive feedback from all parties involved. B. Davaatseren, Head of the Cultural Heritage Department of the Mongolian Ministry of Culture, and G. Enkhbat, Director of the National Center for Cultural Heritage of Mongolia attended the closing ceremony and awarded training certificates to the trainees. Davaatseren said that the importance of intangible cultural heritage safeguarding work has increasingly been recognized over the past 20 years since the Convention's adoption. He expressed that in the future, the safeguarding of ICH in Mongolia will require collaborative efforts from cultural professionals and relevant organizations across the country. He looked forward to continued cooperation with CRIHAP. Participants stated that the training provided them with a deeper understanding of the Convention, especially in terms of safeguarding plan development. The knowledge they learned during the training is of great benefit to them in carrying out specific tasks in their respective positions when they return. The participants hoped for future training on more topics, such as inventorying intangible cultural heritage.









# Capacity Building Workshop on ICH for Youth: the Three-Year Training Programme (the third workshop) concludes

The “Capacity Building Workshop on Intangible Cultural Heritage for Youth: Third Workshop of the Three-Year Training Programme” opened online on July 10 and concluded online on August 28, 2023.

The workshop was co-organized by CRIHAP and UNESCO Beijing Office. Over 60 young people from China, South Korea, Mongolia, Uzbekistan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Nepal and Cambodia attended the workshop.

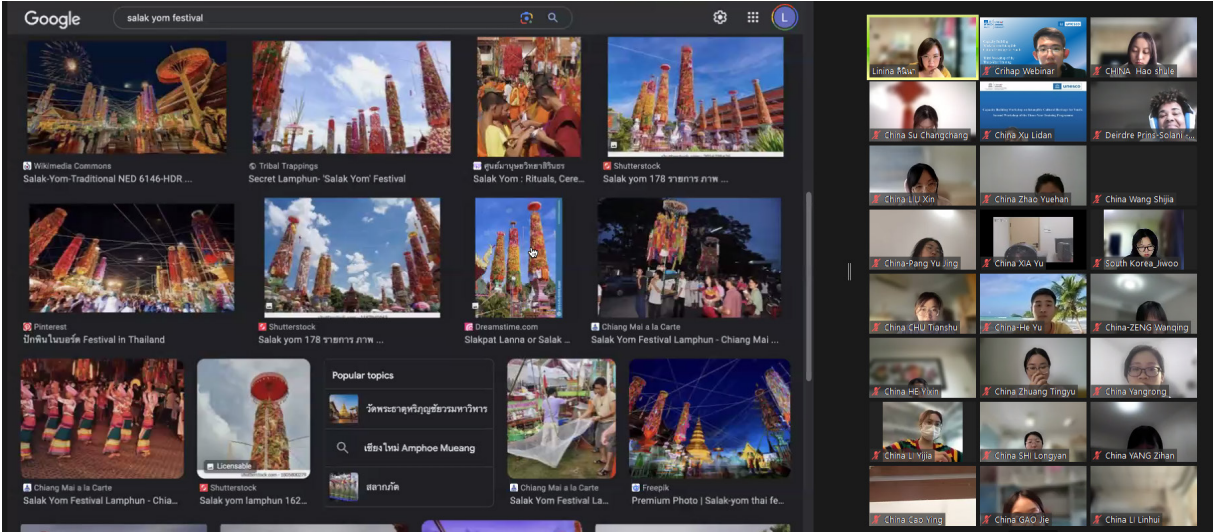
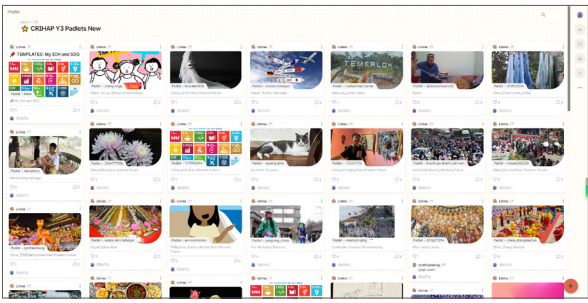
This training included online lectures, Q&A sessions, offline filming practice, as well as the exhibition and discussion of these videos. Guided by two UNESCO facilitators, Deirdre Prins-Solani and Linina Phuttitarn, participants were allowed to explore the vibrant ICH in families, communities and daily life from a youth perspective and completed 46 relevant videos.

This training brought the Capacity Building Workshop on ICH for Youth: the Three-Year Training Programme to a successful close, which has received nearly 340 trainees, employing various teaching methods and leveraging the advantages of multimedia platforms. In a lively and dynamic manner, the participating youth had the chance to discover the charm of ICH and learn theoretical and practical knowledge in this field, including knowledge related to the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003 Convention) and field work methods.



Over the past three years, the trainees completed nearly a total of 170 videos with the guidance of UNESCO facilitators and relevant experts. These videos covering five major categories of intangible cultural heritage in the 2003 Convention showcased the history as well as the inheritance, innovation and development of ICH elements, and the role played by young people in safeguarding them from different perspectives.

The programme aligns with the UNESCO strategy and is an active attempt by the CRIHAP to build the capacity for safeguarding ICH in the Asia-Pacific region. It has nurtured new forces for safeguarding ICH in the region, promoting the sustainable development of ICH.





# 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention

## 8<sup>th</sup> International Festival of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Chengdu and Chengdu Intangible Cultural Heritage Forum successfully concludes

The vibrant and distinctive performances and exhibitions of intangible cultural heritage marked the commencement of the 8<sup>th</sup> International Festival of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Chengdu on October 12, 2023. With the theme "Sharing Implementation Practices and Deepening Mutual Learning between Civilizations", this year's festival showcased handcraft masterpieces and on-site living heritage demonstrations from 15 countries and regions, including France, Poland, Italy and Serbia. The festival not only highlights China's unwavering commitment, as a state party to the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, to the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, but also serves as a global stage to celebrate achievements in safeguarding ICH, fostering international exchange and promoting the richness of traditional Chinese culture.

As the pinnacle academic event of the festival, the Chengdu Intangible Cultural Heritage Forum commenced on the same day. Aligned with the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention, the forum centered on the theme "Review and Exploration: Twenty Years of China's Implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage", providing a systematic overview of China's implementation practices. The forum brought together domestic and international experts and scholars in the realm of intangible cultural heritage to collectively review the global compliance with the Convention. Delving into academic discourse on topics such as the essence and value of cultural heritage, enhancements to the legal framework for safeguarding ICH, and sharing exemplary cases in cultural heritage safeguarding from diverse countries, the forum aimed to deepen exchanges and mutual learning in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. Co-hosted by China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the People's Government of Sichuan Province, with CRIHAP actively participating as one of the organizers, the forum attracted over 200 attendees. Among them were representatives from UNESCO and affiliated organizations, diplomatic envoys in Sichuan and Chongqing, experts and scholars specializing in intangible cultural heritage safeguarding from China and Asia-Pacific region, as well as representatives from cultural and tourism departments and intangible cultural heritage centers across various provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities.



# The "ICH Dialogue" was successfully held during the First Beijing International Week of Intangible Cultural Heritage

To celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 2003 Convention, the First Beijing International Week of Intangible Cultural Heritage (hereinafter referred to as ICH Week) was successfully held from October 22 to 25. The ICH Week was co-sponsored by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Beijing Municipal Government, co-hosted by the Beijing Municipal Culture and Tourism Bureau, and co-organized by CRIHAP. The ICH Week covered nearly 100 activities, including an ICH Exhibition, ICH Dialogue and special ICH activities at non-sub-venues in various districts of Beijing. About 40 countries from Asia, Europe, America and Africa, as well as 18 provinces in China, nearly 1,000 delegates and nearly 500 ICH elements participated in ICH Week.

The "ICH Dialogue" held in the Beijing Hotel on October 22, as a high-end academic activity of ICH Week, with the theme of "Contemporary Practice of ICH Safeguarding" and based on the international perspective and sustainable development of ICH safeguarding, invited almost 150 representatives from UNESCO and relevant international organizations in the field of ICH, as well as diplomatic envoys in China, and experts and scholars in the field of ICH at home and abroad, and practitioners of cultural and tourism enterprises and industry associations to participate in the seminar.

During the "ICH Dialogue", participants conducted dialogues and discussions on topics such as "China's experience of ICH safeguarding in the past 20 years of the Convention", "International cooperation on ICH", "sustainable development of ICH" and "Cultural diversity and ICH". In the keynote speeches session, Yang Shuo, Director of Beijing Municipal Culture and Tourism Bureau, introduced the Beijing model of systematic ICH safeguarding and its vivid practice in recent years. In her speech entitled "International Cooperation on Intangible Cultural Heritage", Ms Duong Bich Hanh, Head of Cultural Affairs at UNESCO's Multisectoral Regional Office for East Asia, updated those attending on the latest progress in the international ICH safeguarding under the framework of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. The Director of the Department of Intangible Heritage of Turkmenistan, Gujiri Mahtumkuryeva, introduced the practice of the ICH safeguarding in Turkmenistan.

In addition, ICH Dialogue also set up two special dialogues themed on "International Perspective on ICH safeguarding" and "Contemporary practice of ICH+ and +ICH", inviting representatives from home and abroad to share contemporary achievements in the safeguarding and inheritance of ICH.





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