



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Tehran ICH Centre

Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding
Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central
Asia, Under the Auspices of UNESCO

TEHRAN ICH CENTRE

**Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia
Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category II)**

1st YEAR PROGRAMMES (INTERIM)

**Submitted to the 1st Meeting of the Governing Council, Tehran ICH Centre
(6 & 7 November 2012, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran)**

English Translation

ARTICLE 1 INTRODUCTION

Adopted: November 7th, 2012

The Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia Under the Auspices of UNESCO (Category II), hereinafter, "the Tehran ICH Centre" or "the Centre" undertakes to plan and execute research projects aimed at safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia, as reflected in its Constitution. The safeguarding efforts envisaged as the activities of the Centre include, among others, the ordinary identifications, documentations, and researches, to promotion and revitalization campaigns.

The present document includes in itself abstracts of some programmes prepared and submitted to the first meeting of the Governing Council of the Centre (6 and 7 November 2012) for final approval and entering the execution with an aim to trigger the activities of the Centre to start during the first year following its official establishment.

The mentioned programmes have been planned in the two fields of research and execution.

ARTICLE 2 BUDGET

Adopted on an Interim Basis: November 7th, 2012

The budget specified for the 1st-year proposed programmes amounts to 250,000 US dollars, which is equal to 40% of the total budget of the Centre. The remaining 200,000 US dollars shall be used for payments of the salaries, the financial needs in logistic affairs, as well as the expenses incurred by the foreseen formality events.

Each programme herein shall be accompanied by a total amount as its specified budget. The details of payments shall be explained thoroughly by the time of the actual drafting and signing of the contract with the contractor, and in the same contract document.

ARTICLE 3 METHOD OF INTERACTION WITH THE CONTRACTOR

Adopted: November 7th, 2012

As asserted in the Constitution as well as the Organizational Chart of the Tehran ICH Centre, the safeguarding research projects of the Centre are constituted by out-sourced activities to expert non-governmental organizations, as well as institutions, groups, or individuals with the desired degree of expertise. In this same relation, the Tehran ICH Centre shall act as a Secretariat, and will be occupied with the needed harmonizing efforts and follow-ups.

The programmes drafted in the present document shall enter the execution phase following the approval by the Governing Council of the Centre, and after signing of the related contracts with expert individuals, groups, or non-governmental organizations with the needed experience in the field of Intangible Cultural Heritage, and in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Centre. The details of the methods of interaction between the Centre and the contractor, as well as the payment procedures for the installments, shall be determined through the specific contract to be drafted and signed by the sides to that effect.

ARTICLE 4 PROGRAMMES

Adopted on an interim basis: November 7th, 2012

4.1. Workshop on Shared Concerns over the West and Central Asian Region on Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage

Duration: 5 days

Place: Tehran, Tehran ICH Centre Headquarters

Budget: to be decided and declared.

Content: Awareness raising regarding ICH and its safeguarding methods, and exchanges of experiences among the states on the region on the issue,

Instructors: At least, two of the internationally known lecturers or trainers on ICH

Approximate Date: 1st half of the year 2013

Participants: 2 individuals from each of the States Members of the Centre

Abstract

Regional research cooperations depend upon a background of mutual understanding among the states on the related fundamentals and methodologies to be guided in the desired direction. The concept finds full justification, specifically, in relation to safeguarding research on Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia.

The subject of Intangible Cultural Heritage constitutes a new theme throughout the world, and not only in West and Central Asia, to the extent that disputes avail on a number of the related fundamental issues. Nevertheless, as regards the region, specifically, an urgent need for awareness raising and constructing a shared ground for planning safeguarding research activities is felt. The regional workshop proposed by the present programme has been planned with an aim to raise awareness in the West and Central Asian countries, and it is hoped that, by the time it has completed its programme, the ground needed for future specific capacity building activities directed toward individual states on the region will have been prepared. It is also hoped that the workshop will provide for facilitated processing of future safeguarding research programmes of the Tehran ICH Centre in the states on the region to the extent that proper feedback is hoped to be gathered for them.

The execution of the workshop shall be accomplished through shifting the transportation, accommodation, payment of the salaries, as well as other executive affairs to a competent contractor and through signing a contract to this effect.

4.2. Map of Successful Practices for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia (Phase 1)

Duration: 9 months, following the completion of Programme 4.1, above

Place: One country from each of the four geographical groups of the Centre

Budget: to be decided and declared.

Content: Identification and documentation of successful safeguarding practices on ICH in West and Central Asia

Approximate Date: 1st Quarter of the year 2013.

Abstract

Safeguarding research activities on the West and Central Asian Intangible Cultural Heritage shall be properly guided and shall lead to desired outcomes, only when the fundamental concept of "West and Central Asia" is defined scientifically and the related limits are determined in a justified way. There is a need for a map of the territory encompassing the mentioned ICH on which the manifestations are identified and the convergences and divergences are presented properly, so that the ground is best prepared for future safeguarding measures to be planned.

Considering the fact that the geographical territory determined for the Centre is vast and encompasses a number of states, and that, on the other hand, the number of identifiable manifestations of ICH in each country is great, the programme proposed here will not be completed in a single time period. As a result, the project "Map of West and Central Asian ICH" shall remain on the agenda of the Tehran ICH Centre as a continuous project, and every year a new phase shall be followed in relation to a new country and/or a new domain of the ICH on the region; the project will be terminated by the time all of the ICH manifestations on the region have been taken care of. It is worth mentioning that, simultaneously, other projects of the Tehran ICH Centre shall be defined and executed parallel to this major programme.

In the course of Phase 1, the project "Map of West and Central Asian ICH" will focus on part of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of four selected countries from the four geographical groups defined for the Centre (namely, Central Asia, Arab States, Caucasia and Asia Minor, and North Asia), with one country selected from each group. to the extent

The major objective followed in this phase, in addition to documenting part of the ICH on the West and Central Asian Region, will be to draft and examine a collection of fundamental aspects and methodological doctrines for proper description of West and Central Asia from the point of view of Intangible Cultural Heritage. No doubt, the outcome of this phase will provide the ground upon which the rest of safeguarding activities of future will be formed.

As for the execution phase, the project will be shifted to a contractor or a group of contractors with the needed expertise, and the outcomes will be gathered at the Centre for future utilizations.

In Future, Phase 1 of the programme will be followed by its Phase 2, titled "Research", and Phase 3, titled "Mapping". The Phases 2 and 3 can be planned and executed for the regions in which, at least, part of Phase 1 has been completed, and can be followed parallel to phase 1, to guarantee the proper timing of the outcome of the whole project.

4.3. Publication of the Centre's Specialized International Bilingual Quarterly

Duration: 9 months, following the completion of 4.1. above

Place: Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Budget: to be decided and declared.

Content: Specialized articles on West and Central Asian ICH

Approximate Date: As of March 2013

Abstract

The Intangible Cultural Heritage constitutes a new field and the related theoretical foundations as well as its methodology are still subjects of intensive scientific and expert disputes. The mentioned subjects are needed to be studied extensively to result, among other outcomes, in the drafting of finalized and uniform rules and regulations for various executive affairs.

At the same time, an effective method to raise awareness among various nations consists of the gatherings of the practitioners and experts of the field to compose specialized, as well as promotional articles on the subject. Through publishing the proposed journal, the visibility of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of West and Central Asia will, no doubt, be guaranteed at an international level. The Centre's specialized international journal will provide a place for the publication of research-based, as well as promotional, articles on the ICH on the region by a great number of the experts and practitioners. The information published in this way will, gradually, enrich the international archive of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, and will result in its visibility at the international level.

In order for a vaster population of readers to be covered by the journal and for more of the specified money to be saved, an electronic version of each issue is proposed to be published first, to provide for a sufficient number of hard copy print-outs to be disseminated accordingly.

4.4. Collaboration with the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO) in the Programmes for Commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

Duration: 12 months (January-December 2013)

Place: Islamic Republic of Iran

Budget: Has been provided by ICHHTO

Approximate Date: As of January 2012

Abstract

The year 2013 is the commemoration date for the 10th anniversary of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (the 2003 Convention). The Intergovernmental Committee of the States Members to the mentioned Convention has, by way of the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Section, invited the Member States to organize special programmes to commemorate the event.

In response to the mentioned invitation, the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO) has, on behalf of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, prepared and submitted a list of cultural events planned in this relation. A subsection of the mentioned list includes initiatives by ICHHTO, while the rest are the events which the mentioned organization will collaborate with some other bodies and organizations to take place.

In this same relation, the Tehran ICH Centre has committed itself to contribute with its expert potentials, to, in compensation, benefit from the related rights, including the inclusion of its emblem on the related documents, posters, brochures, or banners, receiving its needed cultural products, and receiving salaries.

The list of the mentioned events is as follows:

- 4.4.1. The First Regional Conference on Intangible Cultural Heritage in Central and West Asia,
- 4.4.2. The *Nowruz* Festival of 2013, in Collaboration with the *Nowruz* Celebrating States,
- 4.4.3. The First Round of National Iranian Competitions on *Radif* of the Traditional Iranian Music,
- 4.4.4. The 2013 Festival of Traditional and Ritualistic Theatre,
- 4.4.5. Live Exhibition of Iranian Inscribed ICH,
- 4.4.6. Marine Tour of Persian Gulf on Iranian Traditional *Lenj* Boats, Accompanied by Exhibitions and Cultural Performances,
- 4.4.7. Inauguration Ceremonies for Preservation and Revitalization Campaigns on Iranian Inscribed ICH in Need of Urgent Safeguarding,
- 4.4.8. Publication of Documented Material on the Traditional Knowledge of Designing and Executing Iranian Architectural Structures and the Related Decorative Arts,
- 4.4.9. Publication of Audio-visual Material on Iranian Intangible Cultural Heritage.

As mentioned above, the budget required for the execution of the mentioned projects has, already, been provided by the concerned bodies and organizations.