

## 5. Outcome

### Recommended Approaches to Inventory-making and Some Examples of Inventory-making Programmes and Methodologies

We, the participants of the 2004 Workshop on Inventory-making for Intangible Cultural Heritage Management organized by ACCU,

1. Taking into account the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (hereinafter called "the 2003 Convention"),
2. Recognizing that inventory-making is one of the measures recommended in the 2003 Convention for safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage (ICH),
3. Recalling that the 2003 Convention requires each state party to "draw up, in a manner geared to its own situation, one or more inventories of the intangible cultural heritage present in its territory..." (Article 12.1),
4. Further recalling that much of the ICH in the Asia-Pacific region is endangered, and
5. Realizing that Member States need assistance in developing actions for inventory making,

Recommend the following approaches to inventory-making, as demonstrated by some examples of inventory-making programmes and methodologies employed in the region:

#### I. Community inventory-making

It is important that communities themselves define and identify their own ICH, and governments, institutions and NGOs should be ready to support and assist them in doing this.

##### A. Community empowerment / Community "visioning"

Communities need to be empowered to identify, define and assess their own ICH, as a prerequisite to making their own inventories.

- Ongoing training of community members in cultural documentation methods and in using appropriate technologies is important. Such training should take place both in and outside communities.
- Forums and spaces (eg, cultural centres) for communities to hold, represent, and access their ICH need to be created and supported.

##### B. Participatory methodology

It is important to develop participatory "bottom-up" methodologies that are able to accommodate the priorities of bearer communities for safeguarding their ICH.

- Pilot workshops on inventory-making should be conducted in bearer communities, as a way of trialling and developing appropriate "best practice" participatory methodologies and raising awareness.
- Support communities to (a) select elders as teachers/facilitators of ICH in their communities and (b) create new forums to ensure the continued transmission of ICH (eg, "Schools for living traditions").
- Formalise relationships between institutions and bearer communities, including recognizing community members with official institutional status (eg, as "fieldworkers").
- Ensure the integration and streamlining of the administration of ICH at all levels of government (national, provincial, prefectural, state, municipal) so that bearers' concerns are represented in all policies.

## **II. Awareness raising**

It is important to raise awareness about the need to safeguard ICH, and the role of inventory making in achieving this, at all levels.

- Involve students in making inventories of own culture as part of school programs and curricula.
- Utilise all forms of media to raise awareness about ICH.
- Conduct a national awareness raising campaign on ICH, which promotes the concept and the spirit of the 2003 Convention.

## **III. Cultural mapping**

Cultural mapping, which attributes ICH to geographical locations and identifies its bearer communities, can be done using existing data. Such data, collected through scholarly research and fieldwork among other means, should also be obtained through the identification and collation of existing inventories. Cultural mapping needs to be an open-ended exercise, allowing re-evaluation of data to reflect the dynamism of ICH. Cultural mapping can assist governments in developing strategies (establishing timeframes and budgets) for engaging with communities and involving them in inventory making.

## **IV. Development of databases**

Inventory-making requires the development of databases to organize, access and utilize information for purposes of safeguarding.

- Ensure proper tools are developed to create databases which reflect the nature of ICH by, among other measures, including audio and audiovisual materials and restricting access to certain information to respect cultural protocols.
- Recognize local community members as bearers and custodians of ICH and ensure the protection of communal intellectual and moral rights over all information collected.
- Pilot inventory-making with certain communities as a means of developing "best practice" databases.

## **V. Targeting endangered ICH**

- Use existing documentation to identify endangered ICH so that it can be targetted for immediate safeguarding.

Tokyo, Japan

2004 Workshop on Inventory-making for Intangible Cultural Heritage Management,  
6-11 December 2004