

Intangible cultural heritage (ICH)

is a variety of living traditions and expressions that are part of our everyday lives. It encompasses oral expressions, traditional performing arts, social practices, rituals and festive events, traditional craftsmanship, and knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe. Transmitted from generation to generation and transformed over time, ICH gives us a sense of cultural identity and plays an important role in maintaining cultural diversity. It also contributes significantly to the sustainability and resilience of the community.

The Asia-Pacific region, which covers two-thirds of the world's population, is a vast treasure trove of ICH.

However, ICH is currently endangered by various factors, such as changes in social values due to globalization and urbanization, ageing and depopulation in rural areas, conflicts, and intensifying disasters attributed to climate change, and safeguarding ICH is undeniably an urgent issue.



INFORMATION

Visit our website to learn more about IRCI

You can find information about our research projects, latest activities, and public events. Major publications, including project reports and conference proceedings, are also available for download.



IRCI website

<https://www.irci.jp>

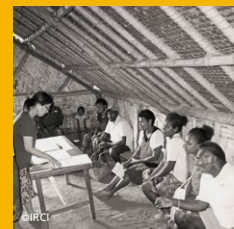


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IRCI

International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region



Centre
Under the auspices
of UNESCO



International Research Centre
for Intangible Cultural Heritage
in the Asia-Pacific Region

National Institutes for Cultural Heritage
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Establishment

In October 2009, the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) approved the establishment, in Japan, of an International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO as a Category 2 Centre (institutions that contribute to the achievement of UNESCO's strategic objectives). After this approval, the Japanese government concluded an agreement with UNESCO in August 2010 and established the International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI) in Sakai City, Osaka in October 2011.

Objectives

- Promote UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and its implementation in the Asia-Pacific region
- Enhance ICH safeguarding in the region by instigating and coordinating research

Work

As a research hub in the field of ICH safeguarding in the Asia-Pacific region, IRCI is committed to developing a platform for enhancing ICH research and implementing various case studies that address ongoing global issues. IRCI works closely with UNESCO as well as universities, research institutes, museums, communities, and governmental and non-governmental organizations in the Asia-Pacific region to strengthen and promote the safeguarding of ICH through research.



IRCI has two Activity Focuses

1

Promoting Research for ICH Safeguarding

To stimulate research and strengthen ICH researchers' network in the Asia-Pacific region, IRCI collects and disseminates research information related to ICH safeguarding while providing a common platform for interaction and academic discussions between researchers in the region.

2

Research on the Safeguarding of ICH for Building Sustainable and Resilient Societies

IRCI has conducted various research projects to address ongoing global issues, such as sustainable development, disaster risk management, and climate change, from the perspective of ICH to highlight aspects that are significant for the sustainability and resilience of communities.

Collection of Research Information

Research information is essential to understand the current situation and challenges of ICH safeguarding. With the cooperation of ICH experts and research institutions, a variety of research information in the Asia-Pacific region is systematically collected, and research trends, issues, and challenges are analysed.

Research Database

The IRCI Research Database publishes collected research information on publications, experts, and institutions related to ICH safeguarding in the region. To expand the visibility of ICH-related research and stimulate information sharing at the international level, the database provides information on many publications written in various Asia-Pacific languages with English summaries.

Research Forum

The **Asia-Pacific Research Forum for ICH Safeguarding** is a platform established for interaction, discussion, and information sharing among researchers and research institutions involved in ICH safeguarding. The Forum organizes various events such as research seminars, international conferences, and programmes for early career researchers, reflecting needs and interests of the region.

Research Forum Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/asiapacificresearchforum>



Practical case studies

In cooperation with universities, research institutes, museums, and NGOs, case studies have been conducted on various topics such as ICH's contribution to SDGs through education and community development, ICH and disaster risk management, and ICH and climate change adaptation. ICH deeply rooted within local communities includes a variety of knowledge and practices that enable the sustainable use of the natural environment and ecosystems. Such ICH plays a vital role in building sustainability and resilience. Case studies contribute to strengthening community-based efforts to safeguard ICH and its transmission to future generations.

Knowledge sharing and discussions

International conferences, workshops, symposiums, and other events are organized to discuss actions and measures to address specific issues and effective methodologies for safeguarding ICH, while sharing insights from case studies. IRCI is committed to disseminating practicable research output, such as guidelines and recommendations, and raising public awareness of the role of ICH in contributing to the sustainability and resilience of societies.