

International Partnership Programme for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage
“Training Course for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage”
(21-26 January 2008, Tokyo, Osaka and Kyoto, JAPAN)

COUNTRY REPORT: INDONESIA

Mechanism for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Indonesia

Dewi Indrawati
Department of Culture and Tourism
Republic of Indonesia

In Indonesia, culture heritage was arranged in the constitution 1945 article 32, as the following:

“The state advanced of Indonesia national culture in the middle of word civilization by guaranteed society’s freedom to save and to develop their cultural values “

This article includes the efforts of the Indonesian nation to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage, management arrangement regarding how to preserve the intangible cultural heritage and its development and also how to promote it. The efforts to safeguard ICH are made by government, communities, and stakeholders.

I. ROLES OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

The most important and significant development in Indonesia’s efforts to safeguard the ICH in Indonesia is that after completion of the due constitutional process, Indonesia has ratified the UNESCO Convention for the safeguarding of ICH by the Decree of the President of Indonesia, Dr. H. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, No.78 Of 2007, dated July 5th 2007. This means that, upon deposition of the Ratification Decree with the Director - General of UNESCO, Indonesia will become a State Party to the Convention, and hopes for ongoing collaboration with UNESCO and other States Parties of the Convention to further the noble aims contained in the Convention. Further efforts by the Department of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Indonesia to safeguard ICH include:

1. A Draft Joint Regulation of the Minister of Home Affairs and the Minister of Culture and Tourism regarding Guidelines for Execution of Duties and Responsibilities of local Government in Preservation of Culture. The regulation covers both tangible and intangible heritage. The time frame for the constitutional process for the legalisation of this regulation is August – December 2007. It is hoped that the regulation may become law and be applied as soon as possible.
2. Identification and recording of cultural materials for the Cultural Map of Indonesia database has been going on in many parts of Indonesia.
3. A draft Law on Protection and Utilisation of Intellectual Property and Expression of Traditional Culture is being prepared. The draft Law is already ready for discussion.
4. A draft Law on Management of Traditional Knowledge has been prepared. This law would serve as a legal umbrella for intellectual property rights.
5. A document outlining policies of the Department of Culture and Tourism for 2007 includes inventory of traditional customs, cultural, performances, traditional festivals, research on spiritual values, and traditional communities.

Research on culture in Indonesia is carried by several institutions, such as the Department of Culture and Tourism, Universities, NGOs, LIPI (Indonesia Science Institution) and other research institutions.

Indonesia is preparing a law on culture of which one of the contents concerns the safeguarding of intangible culture heritage. Indonesia has succeeded in compiling a special law/right, such as HAKI (Right of Intellectual Properties), and has also become an active member of WIPO (World Intellectual Properties Organisation).

The Department of Culture and Tourism has implemented some programmes and projects as its contribution to safeguard ICH, such as:

1. Cultural revitalisation of several ethnic cultures in Indonesia.
2. Transformation of cultural values to the younger generation through education.
3. Research reports on ethnic cultures in 33 provinces in Indonesia as cultural information data.
4. Television programmes.
5. Advertisements on culture through newspapers, magazines, leaflets, etc.

In contacts with UNESCO regarding masterpieces, the **Wayang Puppet Theatre** and the **Indonesian Kris** were proclaimed as masterpiece in 2003 and 2005. Both of them are part of the intangible culture heritage of Indonesia.

II. ROLES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

In the mechanism for safeguarding of ICH, the roles of local governments (provincial, district, and municipal) are:

1. To protect the cultural values in an effort to take care of them and to prevent them from negative influences that could cause them to vanish or change.
2. To develop local cultural values in an effort to increase the community's appreciation and also their awareness to use cultural values as their behavioral guidance.
3. To utilise cultural values for education, knowledge and community prosperity necessity.

III. ROLES OF COMMUNITIES

The communities as the owner, the supporter and the developer of cultural values (as a part of ICH) are executors in its safeguarding which the nation's identity. In the effort to promote cultural values as a guidance to prepare the nation's identity, it is necessary to introduce them to the younger generation through family tradition and formal and non-formal education.

Cultural values as a nation's identity must be exerted so that they do not disappear or alter through globalisation. The communities as supporters of cultural values have a responsibility to protect, to develop and to utilise their own traditions as an intangible cultural heritage, then pass them down from generation to generation.

People in general, and the young generations in particular, are much less interested in ICH, and more interested in "modern" entertainment such as television, films, pop music, etc.

That's why the communities themselves in cooperation with cultural institutions, were hoped to increase their roles in the efforts of protecting, developing and utilise cultural values and tradition as ICH.

In this case the roles of communities are:

1. to set an example for utilising of cultural values as behavioral guidance.
2. to disseminate information regarding local cultural values.

The communities' participation to protect, to develop and to utilise cultural values as a part of ICH could strengthen their cultural identity to face foreign cultural influences that do not adjust to Indonesian norms and personality.

IV. COOPERATION WITH OTHER PARTIES

In the efforts to preserve intangible culture in Indonesia we need to cooperate with our stakeholders. The Department of Culture and Tourism has some stakeholders that are more concerned preservation of intangible culture, like ATL (Oral Tradition Association), Masyarakat Peduli Tradisi (Society of Tradition Care), NGOs, Governing Board of the Indonesian National Wayang Secretariat (SENA WANGI), Indonesian 'Dalang' Union (PEPADI), universities throughout Indonesia, LIPI (Indonesia Science Institution), etc.

One of the institutions outside of the Department of Culture and Tourism was Taman Mini "Indonesia Indah" ("Beautiful Indonesia" in Miniature Park) in Jakarta. This place has several functions, i.e.: cultural preservation, education, and tourism. Taman Mini "Indonesia Indah" represents "Indonesia in miniature" through 33 traditional houses called 'pavilions'. Every pavilion represents both tangible and intangible culture.

At the government level, the Department of Culture and Tourism cooperates with other departments, such as Department of Home Affairs, the Minister of People's Prosperity, Department of Social Affairs, and also the local governments throughout Indonesia.

Indonesia faced some threats to its efforts for protecting ICH, like:

1. Environmental destruction caused by development.
2. Population problems.
3. Change of government policy concerning the area autonomy regulation from a centralized to a decentralised system, resulting in culture getting less attention from local government.
4. Globalisation of technology, particularly communication and information systems, such as : television, internet, radio, etc.
5. Public ignorance towards intangible culture.

Indonesia took several actions as solutions to overcome threats to intangible culture, among others:

1. Struggling for the culture law.
2. Pushing the communities and NGOs to participate actively in efforts for preservation and development of culture at national or local level.
3. Pushing the local government to give more attention to society development through culture, in cases where the local government is a facilitator.
4. Giving broader opportunities for communities concerning their views to express their cultural values, and create a healthy climate for expanding of cultural industry.

I hope that this country report may useful as a contribution to the efforts for safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. Thank you very much.