

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: ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

IN THE NAME OF THE ALMIGHTY GOD

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Having been empowered with the authority to conduct the various needed activities in the field of Intangible Cultural Heritage, by the ICHHTO, the Anthropology Research Center to the organisation succeeded in accomplishing a variety of activities. The Research Center benefits, for the time being, from the collaborations of more than 90 full time researchers in the 30 provinces encompassed within the borders of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The related establishment date goes back to the year 1937.

The present report, and the six annexes following it, comprise a comprehensive list of activities. The mentioned accomplishments are as follows:

1. Preparation of National Rules for Procedures of the Method of Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage Manifestations (Annex 1 to the present report),
2. Preparation of a proposal for establishment of a regional centre for the safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Central and South-western Asia, having been presented for the time being to the 34th session of the UNESCO General Assembly, and followed by the necessary negotiations,
3. Organising meetings with the ambassadors of nine countries, namely, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kirgizstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, and India on regional manifestations of the Intangible Cultural Heritage,
4. Cooperation with UNESCO in organising two regional and sub-regional conferences, as well as an international conference titled "Women's Role in Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage",
5. Organising expert meetings, attended by experts from UNESCO, in collaboration with UNESCO Regional Bureau, since 2005,
6. Preparation of a Provisional Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage, accompanied by a List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding,
7. Publication of a Bilingual Periodical on Intangible Cultural Heritage in collaboration with UNESCO National Commission in Iran (Annex 2 to the present report),
8. Preparation of 230 Intangible Cultural Heritage Manifestation Files for registration on the National Representative List,
9. Preparation of brochures for Intangible Cultural Heritage items (Annex 3 to the present report),

10. Organisation of workshops on research methods for documentation of Intangible Cultural Heritage at the national level,
11. In compliance with Paragraph D to Article 1 of the 2003 Convention, more than 250 branches manufacturing arts, as well as 50 branches handicrafts have been registered, and more than 1,500 other branches identified,
12. Accomplishing research on Intangible Cultural Heritage (Annex 4 to the present report),
13. Publishing 77 volumes of books on Intangible Cultural Heritage (Annex 5 to the present report),
14. Organising specialised conferences on Intangible Cultural Heritage sectors (Annex 6 to the present report),
15. Establishing a National Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee within the overall structure of the Research Institute to ICHHTO, and attended, as members, by representatives of various governmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as well-known scholars in the related fields,
16. Providing support for a number of NGOs engaged in the affairs of preparing files and registering the related manifestations of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

National Rules of Procedures Of the Method of Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage Manifestations

Complying with the Proposal by the Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO), and according to Article No. 138 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, also as provisioned in the 2005 Law Encouraging the Joining of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Convention on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, approved by the Islamic Consultative Assembly to the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, hereby, approves the National Rules of Procedures of the Method of Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage Manifestations, as follows:

ARTICLE 1

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions are, hereby, considered as authoritative in relation to the terms and phrases included in the abovementioned Rules of Procedure:

1. ***The Convention:*** The UNESCO Convention on Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), approved in the year 2003
2. ***The Law:*** The Law Encouraging the Joining of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the to the UNESCO 2003 Convention on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage
3. ***The Organisation:*** The Iranian Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Organization (ICHHTO)
4. ***Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH):*** As provisioned in the definitions included in Paragraph (1) of Article (2) to the Convention, covering the following as its manifestations:
 - a) Oral terms, expressions, and traditions, including language as a vehicle for the Intangible Cultural Heritage,
 - b) Performing Arts,
 - c) Social customs, social actions, rituals, and festivals,
 - d) Knowledge and customs related to the nature and universe,
 - e) Mastership in traditional handicrafts,
5. ***Cultural spaces related to the Intangible Cultural Heritage:*** Comprising the physical, temporal, or cultural spaces related to the Intangible Cultural Heritage,
6. ***Living human treasures:*** The living individuals respected as unrivalled masters of (more than) one of the abovementioned manifestations of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, to the extent that their absence shall bring about poverty in the field,
7. ***Safeguarding:*** The term includes any measure considered as identifying, documenting, conducting research, protecting, supporting, propagating, improving, transferring, or revitalising the various aspects of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, to guarantee their continued existence.

ARTICLE 2

The Organization is, hereby, entitled to take the following measures to safeguard the Iranian Intangible Cultural Heritage:

1. Identification and determination of the manifestations of the Iranian Intangible Cultural Heritage,

2. Registration of the identified Intangible Cultural Heritage on the national lists mentioned in Article 2, and introduction to UNESCO of the selected items from such lists to be incorporated on the related international lists,
3. Taking the protective and supportive measures, including financial support, in relation to the mentioned heritage,
4. Propagation and improvement of the Intangible Cultural Heritage by way of introducing it in mass media, running national and international exhibitions and conferences, and establishment of Intangible Cultural Heritage museums, as well as providing support for performances, exhibitions, conferences, etc,
5. Encouraging, and providing support for non-governmental popular group, and establishments, as well as organs to safeguard and revitalise Intangible Cultural Heritage,
6. Issues of appropriate permits for the running of exhibitions, conferences, performances, etc, of the Intangible Cultural Heritage created by non-governmental organs, establishments, groups, or individuals, as well as exertion of the necessary supervising measures,

ARTICLE 3

The Organization is entitled to take the necessary measures to register the manifestations of the Intangible Cultural Heritage on the following separate lists:

- a) An Ordinary Intangible Cultural Heritage List, where all manifestations of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, including that subset of it which is not in need of urgent safeguarding, are to be registered,
- b) A List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, where the endangered manifestations of the Intangible Cultural Heritage are to be registered.

Note:

Transfers are possible between the abovementioned lists, when conditions change and predictions of the safeguarding situation for the Living Human Treasures holding the Heritage are available.

ARTICLE 4

The Organization is entitled to encourage participations of the communities and groups, as well as individuals creating, holding, or transferring Intangible Cultural Heritage in identifying, determining, protecting, or safeguarding it, while benefiting from their role in managing, protecting, and safeguarding the mentioned Heritage.

ARTICLE 5

While considering the related laws and regulations, the Organization is entitled, within maximally one year following the approval of the present Rules of Procedures, to establish an independent unit or research centre empowered with the authority to conduct educational or research programmes in relation to the subjects of Intangible Cultural Heritage, after it organises the related specialist educational and research programmes.

ARTICLE 6

The Organization is entitled with the duty to envisage the organisational establishments and the related personnel to create an official unit specialised in safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage, benefiting from collaboration on the part of the Deputy in Programming affiliated to it, as well as the directing supervision role exerted by the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

ARTICLE 7

All of the interested executive organisations, including the Ministry of Sciences, Research, and Technology, Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Ministry of Healthcare, Medication, and Medical Education, are hereby entitled to provide at least 5 percent of their specified research budget for research on and identification of manifestations of Intangible Cultural Heritage in fields of their interest, while presenting the results of their studies of the identified manifestations to the Organization for registration on the lists mentioned in Article 2, and providing the necessary protective and supportive measures.

ARTICLE 8

All of the related executive bodies are entitled to provide the Organization with the needed collaborative measures in relation to performing supportive and protective measures for the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

ARTICLE 9

The Islamic Republic of Iran Radio and Television Organization is entitled to provide the needed collaboration for the Organization on the introduction and propagation of the Intangible Cultural Heritage at national and international levels.

ARTICLE 10

The Ministries of Sciences, Research, and Technology and Healthcare, Medication, and Medical Education are entitled to take the measures needed for the planning and proposing to the Cultural Revolution Supreme Council of at least two units of an academic course on Intangible Cultural Heritage.

ARTICLE 11

The Organization is entitled to prepare and provide the educational organizations, including universities, with the educational-propagating texts on Intangible Cultural Heritage to make high-school and university students familiar with the concepts and importance of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Note: The Ministries of Sciences, Research, and Technology, Education, and Healthcare, Medication, and Medical Education are entitled to foresee the needed strategies for the inclusion of extracurricular programmes for introducing Intangible Cultural Heritage in the related educational bodies.

ARTICLE 12

The Organization is entitled to take the necessary measures, especially by way of publications of books, articles, pamphlets, specialist journals, and the like, to introduce manifestations of the Intangible Cultural Heritage to the public, mentioning their importance, and the ways to support and safeguard them, especially as regards their acquaintance with the related dangers.

ARTICLE 13

The Organization is entitled, within maximally three months following the approval of the present Rules of Procedure, to establish a “National Consultative Committee of Intangible Cultural Heritage” to supervise the proper execution of the regulations foreseen in the Convention as well as the present Rules of Procedure, while providing the needed harmonising measures for acquaintance with, and safeguarding, on the part

of the audience with the Intangible Cultural Heritage; the Committee shall be composed of representatives of the Organization as well as the other related organisational bodies.

ARTICLE 14

The Organization is entitled, within maximally one year following the approval of the present Rules of Procedure, to collaborate with the interested organisations to identify the regulative needs for the protection and safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, and provide the Government with appropriate proposals.

ARTICLE 15

The Organization is entitled to provide its Supreme Council with the necessary executive directions on the methods of identifying, registering, introducing, supporting, and safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage within, maximally, one year following the approval of the present Rules of Procedures. The related directions, as well as the amendments following them, shall be authoritative only after they are approved by the majority of the members of the Cultural Heritage and Tourism Supreme Council, and accepted by the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, observing Article 19 to the Internal Rules of Procedures of the Government; the related executive bodies are responsible for their proper executions, within the framework of their responsibilities.

ARTICLE 16

The Organization is entitled to prepare and execute all of the strategies and programs needed for the identification, introduction, and support of the Living Treasures of Humanity.

ARTICLE 17

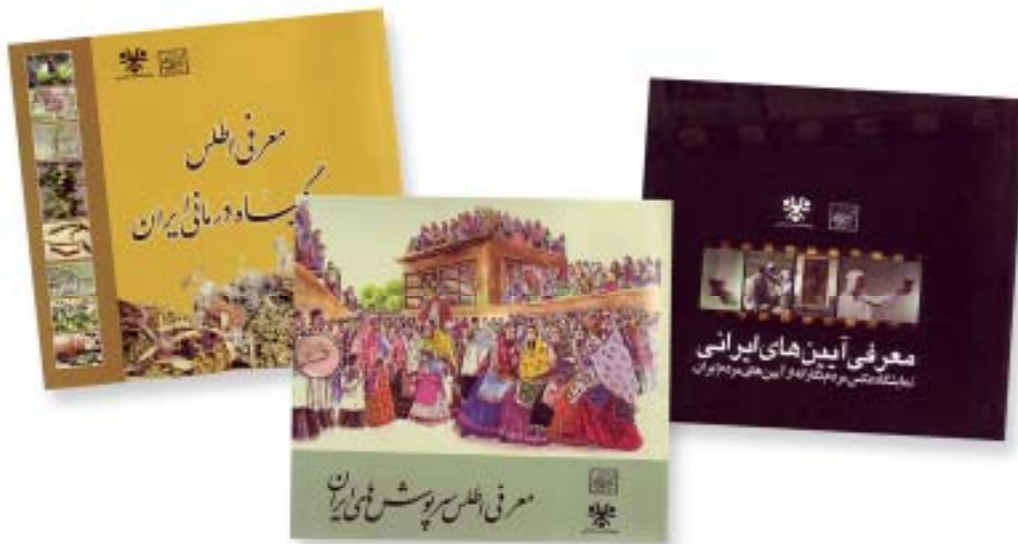
The Organization hereby accepts all of the responsibilities related to proper execution of the regulations included herein, as well as the Convention, and is entitled to prepare and present the reports mentioned in Article 29 to the Convention, and submit them to the Intergovernmental Committee.

Annex 2



Publication of a Bilingual Periodical on Intangible Cultural Heritage in collaboration with UNESCO National Commission in Iran

Annex 3



Preparation of brochures for Intangible Cultural Heritage items



Anthropology Research Center of Iran

**List of Activities by Anthropology Research Center of Iran on Intangible Cultural Heritage
(Research, Conferences, Publications, Legislation, and Collaboration)**

Annex 4

List of the Accomplished Research Projects

1. Ethnography of the Homeland: 360 Campaigns on 360 Towns
2. Popular Stories and Epics: 26 Provinces
3. Anthropology of Selected Villages: 25 villages
4. Oral Literature: 13 Provinces
5. Man, Environment, Knowledge (Sky): 17 Provinces, and Damavand Towns
6. Man, Environment, Knowledge (Popular Knowledge): 2 Provinces, 19 cities
7. Man and Water: 48 Regions
8. Man, Environment, Knowledge (Medicine): 12 Provinces
9. Popular Knowledge, and Native Techniques: 18 Provinces
10. Games: 19 provinces
11. Hunting and Chasing Techniques and Methods: Mazandaran, Sistan and Baluchestan
12. Process of Rose-water Making, and Traditional Glassware Method of Meymand [place names]
13. Anthropology of Ethnic Groups: Cossack, Baluch
14. Customs and Ceremonies of Arab, Lor, and Ilami Tribes
15. Horse in Lor Tribes Culture
16. Anthropology of Gheshm, Kish, Mazandaran Forest Dwellers, and Zagros Mountains
17. Anthropology of Sacred Peaks: 3 Projects
18. Anthropology of Desert Dwellers
19. Anthropology of Music: 5 Provinces
20. Funeral and Mourning Rituals and Ceremonies: 2 Provinces
21. Rituals and Ceremonies of Noruz: 8 Provinces
22. Rituals and Ceremonies of Moharram: 2 Provinces
23. Rituals and Ceremonies of Religious Minorities: Armenians and Zoroastrians
24. Documented Traditional Rituals and Ceremonies: Kordestan and Eastern Azarbaijian
25. Proverbs and Cultural and Ethnic Similarities
26. Documentaries: Traditional Marriage Ceremonies of Lorestan; Charlang Bakhtiari Tribe Mourning
27. Traditional Collaborations: Hamedan
28. Time Measurement Techniques
29. *Tati* and *Gonabad* Dialects

List of the Books Published by the Anthropology Research Center

1. Beliefs and Knowledge in Lorestan and Ilam
2. Ethnic Arts in Handicrafts of Bakhtaran
3. Iranian Musical Culture
4. Traditional Techniques for Water Distribution in Semnan
5. A collection of Articles (Wedding Ceremonies, Persian Proverbs in hahnama...)
6. Pearl Hunting Method
7. Traditional and Ethnic food Preparation Technique in Markazi Province: Changes and Cultural Consequences
8. Techniques of the Game *Kolahparan*
9. Traditional Technology of Dyeing *Tar-o-Pud* [carpet] in Kashan
10. Collection of Proverbs
11. Game of *Ghap* in Iran
12. Songs from the South
13. Songs of Noon: Collection of Sistani Poems
14. *Osungun* (Legends of the People of Khur)
15. *Samandar-e Chelgis*: Book of Khorasani Oral Stories
16. Legends of Ashkurbala
17. Noruz Ceremonies
18. History, Culture, and Social Groups of *Zurkhane*
19. Passion-play in Khur
20. Customs and Ceremonies of Ancient Iranians According to Firdawsi's *Shahnama* (volume 1)
21. Collection of Gilani Idioms, Proverbs, and Words
22. *Kallefaryad*: Songs of Khorasan
23. Semnani Culture, Proverbs, Idioms, and Poems
24. Amoli Popular Culture
25. Collection of Articles on Iranian Anthropology
26. Survey of Iranian Dialects (1): Ardestan City, Isfahan Province
27. Survey of Iranian Dialects (2): Isfahan
28. Semnani Culture: Biographies of Poets, and Sample Poems
29. Survey of Iranian Dialects (3)
30. Sayings of Elders: Proverbs of Birjand
31. Techniques of the Game *Ye-Ghol-Do-Ghol*
32. Seals and Brands on Harvest and Livestock: An Anthropological Research
33. Eclipses of the Sun and the Moon in Iranian Culture
34. *Noruz* to Noruz
35. Bibliography of Noruz
36. Collection of Articles: The First Conference on *Moharram* and Iranian Culture
37. Proceedings of the First Conference on Horse and Horse-Breeding Development Means in Iran
38. Iranian Research on Horses
39. Survey of Iranian dialects (4)
40. Legends of Gilan
41. Imam Ali (Peace Be Upon Him) in Folk Stories
42. Fourty Legends from *Khorasan*

43. Stories of Khuzestani People
44. Imam Ali (Peace Be Upon Him) in Folk Iranian Songs
45. *Shoghat*: Proverbs and Stories of Markazi Province
46. Epic Heritage
47. Proceedings of the First International Conference on Man and Water
48. Collection of Articles: The Second Regional Conference on Noruz
49. Last Wednesday of the Year Ceremony
50. Anthropology of Tafresh City
51. Anthropology of Delijan City
52. Legends of Khorasan: Sabzevar City
53. Legends of Khorasan: Esfarayen City
54. Songs of Gharjestan: Collection of Oral Poems in Hazare-Dwelling Regions of Afghanistan
55. Exotic Baptists: An Anthropological Study on Religiousness of the *Mandaeans* of Iran
56. Techniques of the Game *Alak-Dolak*
57. Noruz in Transoxania
58. A Collection of Iranian Stories
59. Collection of Articles: The First International Conference on Man and Water
60. A Research Guide on Anthropology of Masule: Language of Masule
61. Collection of Articles: The Second Conference on *Moharram* and Iranian culture
62. Anthropology of Abyane Village
63. Rituals Relating Transitions in Iran: A Contrastive Study on Iranian Rituals in Cultural and Geographical Domains
64. Music in the Culture of Lorestan
65. *Nakhl* Ceremonies in Iranian Culture
66. Proceedings of the First Conference on Horses in Iranian Culture
67. Ethnography Project of Big Cities: Traditional Medicine
68. Legends of Southern Khorasan: Birjand
69. Legends of Khorasan: Tabas
70. Legends of Khorasan: Shahriar
71. Anthropology of Mourning in *Moharram* in Birjand
72. Collection of Articles: International Conference on *Moharram* Ceremony and Public Culture

Conferences

1. International Conference on Role of Women in the Transfer of Intangible Cultural Heritage
2. Conference on Traditional Medicine and Simple Substances
3. Recognition and Introduction of Ethnic Technology in Iran
4. National Seminar of Experts and Authorities on Women Games
5. Ethnic and Native Games Festival
6. Women Ethnic and Native Games Festival
7. Photo Exhibition on *Moharram* Ceremonies in other Countries
8. Third Conference on *Moharram* and Popular Culture
9. Organization of Traditional Games: *Chowgan* and *Kabdi-Kabdi*
10. International Conference on Noruz and Dialogue among Civilizations
11. Conference on Gilan Culture
12. Conference on Publications about Superstitions and the Fictitious
13. Traditional Games Festival in Arg-e Bam
14. First Water Festival: Summer
15. Second Ethnic and Native Games Festival
16. First Conference on Noruz
17. First Conference on Culture and Natural Heritage
18. Traditional Games Festival
19. First National Festival on Saffron
20. International Conference on Man and Water
21. First Conference on Women Ethnic Music in Iran
22. Conference on Water and Bread in the Future of Iran

Cooperation with Other Research/Educational Bodies

a) National Level

1. Kites Festival
2. Seminar on Women and Handicrafts in Sistan and Baluchestan
3. Conference on Women and Rural Handicrafts Development in Sistan and Baluchestan Province
4. Grand Gathering on *Passion-Play* in Kermanshah
5. General Conference on Ethnic Tendency and Common Culture
6. Conference on Traditional Medicine and Simple Substances
7. Flower and Rose Water Festival
8. Conference on Superstitions and the Fictitious
9. Zanjan Province Festival on Tourism, Handicrafts, and Ethnic Arts
10. Conference on Islamic Arts
11. International Conference on Calligraphy in the Islamic World
12. First Water Festival: Summer
13. Second Ethnic and Native Games Festival
14. Medical Anthropology Seminar
15. First Women Ethnic Music Festival
16. Conference on Role of Water and Bread in Future of Iran

b) International Level

1. Regional Seminar of Asian and Australian Cultural Experts on Preserving and Transmitting Intangible Heritage

2. Conference on Storyology in Germany
3. Sixth International Conference on Ethnic Pharmacology
4. First Intergovernmental Committee Conference on Intellectual Properties, Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore
5. Expertise Conference on Sacred Peaks
6. Second Intergovernmental Committee Conference of World Intellectual Properties Organization
7. Third and Fourth Intergovernmental Committee Conference of the World Intellectual Property Organization on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge, and Folklore
8. Fifth European Conference on Iranian Studies
9. Tenth Conference on Contemporary Middle Eastern Studies
10. International Conference on Environment, Religion, and Culture